

Hongkong Daily Press.

ESTABLISHED 1867

Registered as a Newspaper at the General
Post Office in the United Kingdom.

No. 18,395. 號五十九百三千八萬一第 日二十月三年巳丁 HONGKONG THURSDAY, MAY 3RD, 1917. 三拜禮 號二月五年六國民華中 PRICE, \$8 PER MONTH.

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OVERSEAS TRADE.
FUTILE GERMAN BLOCKADE.

Striking figures bearing upon the results of the submarine war on our overseas trade are quoted in the report for 1916 of the Liverpool Steam Shipowners' Association. While admitting that in the twelve months ending on December 31st the losses in ships and cargoes were heavy, the document states: "The records of the year have again shown how futile is the attempted German blockade. In the ocean trades the losses from war perils have in the year represented 7 per cent. on the total tonnage of British ships employed, and 108 per cent. on the value of the cargoes carried in these ships; and notwithstanding the so-called blockade, cargoes of the weight of upwards of 40,000,000 tons were brought from foreign countries into the ports of the United Kingdom. After taking into account the new ships completed since the outbreak of war, the total tonnage of the British mercantile marine employed in ocean trades has been reduced in two and a half years of war by less than 5 per cent."

It is pointed out that the extraordinary success attained in keeping open our overseas trade has prevented the nation from realising in its daily life the burden the war is placing on our overseas carrying power. With more than one-half of the ships of the mercantile marine devoted to war purposes and to the support of the Allied nations, it is impossible to maintain peace standards in our living or in our occupations. The State throughout the year has exercised full control over the ships of the mercantile marine, but not content with this control, certain sections of the public have demanded State management of all shipping. It is unfortunate that the demand should have become identified in part with the protests made against high freight rates and shipowners' profits; but it is essential that the gravity of the issues involved should be considered apart altogether from these questions.

The cardinal fact is that, after satisfying war demands, the total shipping available in the world is not sufficient to carry the cargoes demanding to be transported, and the primary object of all State intervention must be to secure the most effective use of all such ocean-carrying power as is available. In the consideration of how this object can be best attained, it must be realised that we are, in great measure, dependent on the carrying power of vessels under foreign flags. Under peace conditions, the employment of foreign vessels was a business convenience, but with the war demands which can only be met by vessels under the British flag, it is now an absolute necessity.

Loss of Carrying Power. The following table shows the extent to which our imports of food and raw materials have been, and are now being, carried in vessels under our own and other flags. The figures represent the comparative carrying power of British and foreign ships employed in the foreign trade of the United Kingdom, the carrying power employed under peace conditions being taken as 100:

	1914	1915	1916	Total
Peace conditions, 12 months	52	52	52	100
First 6 months of war	40	22	72	
Second " "	47	22	89	
Third " "	46	22	81	
Fourth " "	40	22	61	
Fifth " "	40	19	60	

It will be seen from the above table that, comparatively, the war and its demands have reduced the total carrying power available for the United Kingdom trade in the ratio of from 100 to 60, and that of such power as is left 41 is in ships under the British flag, and 19 in ships under foreign flags. Under normal conditions, our overseas food supplies and raw materials, amounting in the year to upwards of 16,000,000 and 28,000,000 tons weight respectively, were obtained from the sources named in approximately the following proportions:

	Food	Raw Materials
Empire	24	24
Allied countries	11	16
Neutral countries	54	49
Enemy countries	9	4

To bring in these supplies British and foreign vessels made upwards of 40,000 voyages in the year. The extent to which our imports have been maintained despite the dislocation and losses caused by the war are shown by the appended figures, representing the total weight of foreign trade imports in the periods namely:

Period	Tons
January-July, 1914	25,783,878
Wartime Conditions:	
Six months to Jan. 31, 1915	24,344,627
Six months to July 31, 1915	24,217,749
Six months to Jan. 31, 1916	24,513,958
Six months to July 31, 1916	23,737,795
Six months to Jan. 31, 1917	21,007,945

STATE MANAGEMENT. In regard to the results of State management, the report asserts that two and a half years' experience has shown that under it there is constant and serious wastage. "One-third of the British mercantile marine has a carrying capacity in ocean trades, in the course of a year, of upwards of 55,000,000 tons weight of imports and exports; and it is regretted that if the remaining two-thirds had been utilised only in proportion to the one-third under military control the nation must have starved. If in business, cargoes had to be carried for merchants who were in no way responsible for the freights or for the detention of the ships in port, and if the profits and success of the shipowners providing the ships were in no way dependent on the uses to which the ships were put, the waste of carrying power in commerce would be no less than the waste in war."

Hence the association views with grave concern the growing number of British ships placed under State management.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

GERMANY'S FAILURE IN CHINA.
GREAT BRITAIN BLAMED.

German papers which arrived in London on March 14th contain the first information to reach Great Britain regarding the abortive efforts of Germany and Austria-Hungary to avoid a breach with China. Intemperate language by Hun editors, writing under Foreign Office "inspiration," indicates the chagrin with which the Germans face the contingency which has now arisen. To realise the importance of China's decision one needs to be reminded that throughout the war the vast German commercial organisation in China, has been restlessly at work preparing for "the war after the war."

Hamburg and Bremen exporting interests and Berlin banking interests, working hand in hand with the German diplomatic and consular service, have been completing far-reaching arrangements for exploitation of the Chinese market the moment peace returned. The fury now filling the German bosom is due mainly to the realisation that the turn which events have taken has smashed rosy dreams of trade conquest in the Far East after the war.

WHAT THE HUNS OFFER.

A Berlin communiqué published on March 9th says:— "It has already been hinted that Germany, acting in co-operation with Austria-Hungary, some time ago offered to the Chinese Government the same advantages as those with which the Entente Powers are now seeking to inveigle the Chinese Empire against its own interests into an adventurous policy. In 1914 Germany and Austria-Hungary declared themselves agreeable to an increase in the Chinese Customs rates. These rates, amount nominally to 5 per cent., but, being based on measurements and weights, their value is actually lower. The Chinese Government is anxious to realise their full value. Germany and Austria-Hungary announced their readiness to approve of an increase to 12½ per cent., on condition that the inland transit dues (likin) were abolished. This proposal failed because of the opposition of the Powers to-day at war with us above all, Japan, Russia, and England."

OFFER OF "FRIENDSHIP."

What, in other words, we then offered to China out of friendship and was rejected on account of the hostility of the Powers named has now been offered to the Chinese Government by those same Powers to induce it to break off relations with Germany and her allies. In the autumn of 1916 we also offered to relieve China of her Boxer indemnity obligations in the form of a loan. This also has now been offered to the Chinese by our enemies to make her agreeable to their political aims.

It is for the Chinese Government to decide by comparison of the offers, their dates, and the *quid pro quo* required for which side China's friends are to be found.

CHINA KNOWS OUR STRENGTH.

Messengers have been taken for informing China thoroughly of our military and economic position, so that she can be fully informed, when making her decision, as to the Allies' motives and the facts of the whole world situation. It is to be expected that China has convinced herself that to accede to the desire of the Allies would least of all serve Chinese interests."

GERMANS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

The hospitality offered by President Wilson to all enemy aliens resident under the United States flag has already been violated by at least two Germans residents, Conrad Andre (formerly German vice-consul at Cebu and latterly representing the interests of Behm, Meyer & Company at that port, and Waldemar Schmidt (manager of the Manila Button Factory in Manila). Both of these men have been taken into custody by constabulary authorities and are now held as a precautionary measure. The arrest of Andre occurred in Cebu at three o'clock in the morning (says the *Manila Bulletin*). A prominent government official said that apparently nothing short of an insurrection against the authority of the United States in these islands was behind the plans of the former Teuton vice-consul.

"The inevitable results are waste of time, loss of ocean carrying power, and decreased imports. If the ocean carrying power, and therefore the imports, be reduced under State management even by only 10 per cent., and judging by all past experience under such management it may well be reduced by 25 per cent. and upwards—the nation will be faced with actual shortage in essential supplies, privation and panic prices." It is further contended that any attempt to keep the tonnage that can be earned by foreign freightage in the United Kingdom trade below the rates that are offering in the international freight market plays directly into the enemy's hands by lessening our essential overseas supplies.

It is the want of labour in the ports (concludes the report) and more especially on the railways that is wasting the carrying power of the ships now available, and limiting the building of new tonnage. In the opinion of the association, the labour that is so urgently needed can only be found in the Home Defence Army, and it is on the line of the Transport Workers' Bittellions that such labour should be organised and provided.

RUSSIA AND HER ALLIES.
GREAT EFFORTS TO DEFEAT THE ENEMY.

WAR PUBLICATIONS.

Among the many pamphlets which have been recently come to hand on subjects connected with the war one of the most interesting is an extract from the verbatim report of the Imperial Russian Duma, 15th Session, 19th sitting. Under the title "Russia and Her Allies" the speech of Mr. A. T. Shingareff, a member of the delegation to the allied countries, is published by Messrs. Barrup, Mathieson & Sprague, Ltd.

Mr. Shingareff said in part:— "THE BELGIAN AND BRITISH FRONTS. Having visited the Belgian and British fronts, we have been able to see and our comrades bore witness to it before you in the Committee—what gigantic efforts have been put forth by our Allies. We saw the enormous preparations of the British bases, the endless provision of supplies for the front; we saw the great works which have made of the front one continuous fortress dozens of miles long. The military zone is served by so many motors, there are such quantities of all kinds of munitions and provisions, that we were astounded, and yet we can assure you that this great wave of war technique and war industry has not yet reached its crest."

"We saw part of Admiral Jellicoe's gallant command, we had the pleasure of being received by Admiral Beatty's squadron with that hospitality which is characteristic of the British navy. The greatest naval victory which drove the German fleet into its ports and put out of action a considerable number of German vessels, that great naval victory of England's has been of the utmost service to us; for it has deprived the enemy of all chance of interfering with our Northern communications, and has diminished the probability of his attacking us in the Baltic. (Voice on the Left, "Long live the English fleet.") Storms of applause on the Right, Centre, and the Left."

"We recall with gratitude all that we have seen. We can learn many lessons from the examples set us, the wonderful unity and courage of conduct of affairs in the great Britain, the solidarity of the Cabinet and the members of Parliament, the strength of the people, called to the nation to arms against the common foe. All this taken together is so reassuring and significant that we should do well to keep it constantly in mind."

THE BELGIAN COLONIAL CAMPAIGNS. What the Belgians contingents went through in the Cameroons and German East Africa, is told in the booklet on the subject published by Sir Joseph Causton & Sons, Ltd., entitled "The Belgian Campaigns in the Cameroons and German East Africa." The difficulties they encountered and the hardships they endured are best told in the following order of the day issued by the French general under whom they fought:

"For more than 18 months you have been exposed to the scorching heat of the day and the cold damp of the night; you have been subjected to the malarial rains of the Equator; you have traversed impenetrable forests and fetid marshes; you have carried on your feet the enemy's entrenchments, losing numerous comrades there. "In want of food, sometimes even of munitions, with your clothes in rags, you pursued your glorious march without one complaint or murmur until you attained the goal set before you. I am proud of commanding such troops. "Before leaving the contingents of the Belgian Public Force, it is my duty to testify to the very great value to us of the co-operation of these fine troops, and from the bottom of my heart I pay to the European officers and non-commissioned officers, and to the native troops and sub-officers, the tribute of praise and admiration for their bravery under fire, and by the patience and self-denial they have shown during the whole course of this long and arduous campaign."

"Germany occupies about 29,000 square kilometres of Belgian territory, but Belgium holds nearly 200,000 square kilometres of German territory in Africa." The book concludes.

"No doubt the latter does not compensate for the former, but, nevertheless, the Belgian victories in Africa have considerably strengthened the political position of Belgium in Africa."

"Thus Belgium has found in Africa, as she will soon find in Europe, the just reward for her good faith, her respect for right, and the courage with which she has resisted injustice."

"Germany, on her part, is to-day expiating her did not hesitate to commit by violating Belgian neutrality on the one hand, and by letting loose this protracted war on the Congo, by her sudden attack on Lukuga, on the other."

"Someone has said that in politics all mistakes are paid for. Present events prove conclusively that it is the same with injustices—they also are paid for, sooner or later."

SMALL NATIONS AND THE GERMANS.

Lord French is responsible for an interview, written by Mr. Edward Price Bell, which appeared in the *Chicago Daily News*, on "The Germans and the small nations," which is published in pamphlet form by Messrs. J. J. Keilber & Co., Ltd.

(Continued at foot of next column.)

"ERSATZ."
A STUDY IN THE SCIENCE OF SUBSTITUTES.

Suppose you were deprived suddenly of the bulk of the ordinary things of life, what would you do? This is a question to which, owing to the effectiveness of the British blockade, the bulk of the population of Germany have had to, and an answer, and, the number and ingenuity of the "Ersatz," or substitutes, they have succeeded in producing, are simply extraordinary.

Take up any German newspaper and you will find the advertisement columns absolutely bristling with invitations to purchasers to try this and that substitute for articles of clothing, food, and household requisites which have vanished into the dim past.

"German house tea," says one advertisement, "the best substitute for black tea and coffee, the product of the German forest. The price is 5d. a packet, and the 'only manufacturer' John Schuster, of Dresden, is, by appointment to the King of Saxony. He does not state whether the tea has yet become popular in royal circles."

SECRETS FOR SALE. "Worth their weight in gold" declares another announcement by the Chemical Factory, Berlin, and offering recipes for substitutes for wash-powder, rubber, starch, honey, and a dozen other things. The recipe for a pepper-substitute costs ten shillings, but one for baking powder can be had for one shilling. The secret of the starch substitute can be learnt for 7s. 6d., but that of beef-tea cubes costs just double.

Messrs. Altkuhnen and Co., however, go one better than this. For 15s. the hungry German can receive "twenty secret recipes," including honey, essences, butter, jam, sugar syrup, essences, liquors, etc. The raw material, it is pointed out, can be bought anywhere, and success is guaranteed, although "cash on delivery" is insisted on.

Paper string or cord has entirely replaced the ordinary article, and we find Herr Hachenburger, of Darmstadt, announcing that he has several truckloads of paper string and a half, to sell "very cheap," while Lazarus Giesenfeld, of Berlin, has paper string sold at 3s. 6d. for two and a quarter pounds has been so "treated as to resist moisture."

Soap substitutes are advertised in great variety, but apparently they are not all as successful as might be wished. Thus one enterprising advertiser, in announcing a "first-class washing grease," says "free from clay, chlorine, and suchlike," incomparably better than the clay and gelatine substances at present current in the trade. This "best substitute" is sold in tubs of 120lb. for 22s. 4s. Another expert advertises "first-class salomonian washing substances" in 1lb. bags at 21 per 100lb., while Messrs. Lehmann and Sons, of Berlin, appeal to their fellow Huns to "economize in soap, and use Lebona soap-saver, to be had everywhere."

CLAY SOAP. The suggestion by the advertiser quoted above that clay is the basis of this war-scarp finds confirmation in an advertisement which offers for "sale cheap," a disused stove factory, "bought at compulsory sale by auction, with large clay b.d., also suited for the production of war-soap."

In Bavaria the authorities have become suspicious of some of these substitutes, and have published a list of articles with the manufacture of which is prohibited, the sale of which is prohibited. Thus, the Schmutzter washing material and the "Wasch-fix soap substitute" of Herr Josef Schmidt, of Munich, may not be sold, while Georg Moersdorf, of Leipzig, is prevented from reaping the profits of his "Perplex-boiling starch."

"Imperial pudding powder, foreign wares, manufacturer unknown," is banned, and "saucе cubes with potato and gulch" and "saucе cubes prepared by Herr Strieder of Chemnitz, may not tempt the appetite, the same fate befalling his "Konsum, meat soup substitute dice."

A second list issued by the same authorities gives the names of substitutes which may be purchased. They include "Butterol for spreading on bread," "saucе powder Fakol," a somewhat appropriate name—Gedro jam tablets, "Bona Moecca coffee substitute," "Strassmann's cake and cake-powder," Thüringer Sauerbraten saucе, and other tasty and useful articles.

There appears, indeed, to be no article for which the ingenious German is not prepared to find a substitute. The idea of substitution has become so important a part of the national thought that we even find advertisements like the following—

"Substitute for foreign countries. Education in scientific and domestic knowledge for young girls from sixteen years and upwards, also gardening and poultry breeding."

men to the strength of the fighting units. There are many other ways in which the populations of subjugated countries can be used, and principally it is necessary to consider and determine the military value of impressed men on lines of communication. This also is of much increased importance in war to-day. It is difficult to assess this extra strength in actual figures."

"If Germany were to give Holland, Denmark, Norway, and perhaps Sweden the choice of joining her or being subjugated; what would be the effect upon Germany's military position?"

The subjugation of these other States," replied Lord French, "will increase German military power in proportion as her military strength has been enhanced by impressing the populations of the smaller countries she already has overrun."

"Then are all these little States about Germany in the nature of life-boats that she might seize if she were sinking?"

"Yes, I think so."

Among other valuable publications of a similar nature are "Alsace-Lorraine, the history of an annexation," published by the French League for the rights of man, "The Peace terms of the Allies," Messrs. Richard Clay & Sons, Ltd., and "The German Note and the Reply of the Allies," Messrs. T. Fisher Unwin, Ltd.

THE WAR.

LULL IN BIG BATTLE.

LARGE BRITISH CAPTURES.

FRESH ONSLAUGHTS IMMINENT.

DUTCH TOWN BOMBED.

DEALING WITH SUBMARINISM.

Franco-Belgian Front.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

FRENCH SUCCESSES.

SOME HEAVY FIGHTING.

LONDON, May 1st.

Reuter's Correspondent at the French Headquarters, telegraphing on April 30th, says:—As a result of to-day's French attack in Champagne, six miles of the German front line was captured. The enemy offered desperate resistance, managing to bring up fresh troops, who had not suffered from the bombardment. This was possible owing to a haze mitigating against the artillery. Nevertheless, in an hour the chief objectives were achieved, although every yard of ground was sown with perils, the enemy clinging to every vantage point with the courage of despair. Then came up furious counter-attacks, in which the Germans suffered heavily. The French clung on to their gains, being greatly assisted by the use of sending up clouds of dense smoke to obscure the organisation of the new line.

HEAVY ENEMY COUNTER-ATTACKS.

LIVELY FIGHTING ON FRENCH FRONT.

Paris, May 2nd.

A communiqué says:—At Chemin-des-Dames there has been fairly lively artillery, especially near Hurbise and Craonne and in the region of Courcy. In Champagne there has been violent artillery fighting south of Moronvillers, where our barrage machine-gun fire twice broke heavy counter-attacks against the positions captured on April 30th. North-east of High Mount we inflicted heavy losses, and captured 520 prisoners. Five guns were captured in the fighting on April 30th. A Belgian communiqué reports a violent reciprocal bombardment north of Dixmude.

LARGE BRITISH CAPTURES.

MEN AND MATERIAL.

LONDON, May 1st.

Field Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We have captured (1) period 19,343 prisoners, including 393 officers, 257 guns and howitzers (of which 99 are heavy guns); 227 trench mortars, and 470 machine-guns. Our artillery also destroyed many other guns.

During the air-fighting on Monday our aeroplanes brought down eight machines and drove down nine which were uncontrollable. As the result of gun-fire we shot down another. Nine of our aeroplanes are missing.

EARLIER CABLES.

GERMAN NEWS.

ST. QUENTIN CATHEDRAL HIT.

LONDON, May 1st.

A wireless German official message states:—There was minor fighting near St. Quentin yesterday. The Cathedral received five hits.

A French attack between Presnes and Auberville failed.

A second attack from the southward of Naurey also failed.

We brought down twenty-five aeroplanes and five balloons yesterday.

LULL IN THE WEST.

PREPARING FOR FRESH ONSLAUGHTS.

LONDON, May 1st.

Except for the new French thrust east of Rheims, there has been a comparative lull in the Western battle. This, however, is merely the breathing space necessary for the shifting of forces for fresh onslaughts.

There has been increased aerial activity, which is usual at such times, when aeroplane observations are the main source of information of enemy movements. The weather is pleasant, and contrasts remarkably with that of last week. The quagmires have disappeared and the shell-craters have dried up. The impoverished ground is absolutely bare, and the gaunt shell-shattered trees stand ghastly and naked in the strong sunshine.

The marching troops are covered with white dust. Water is scarce, but the German dug-outs afford liberal supplies of beverages.

According to French estimates, Hindenburg has already thrown in 33 of his 43 reserve divisions. All the former are practically useless. It is reported that Hindenburg recently, in the Lens district, furious at the loss of Vimy, reprimanded the Commanders.

VIOLENT ARTILLERY STRUGGLE.

Paris, May 1st.

A communiqué states:—A fairly violent artillery struggle continues in the regions of Troyon and Hurbise. We consolidated the captured positions in Champagne.

We took 400 prisoners yesterday.

SUCCESSFUL BRITISH RAID.

LONDON, May 1st.

Field-Marshal Sir Douglas Haig reports:—We carried out a successful raid northward of Ypres last night, and captured prisoners.

The Balkans.

LATEST CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

IN MACEDONIA.

COUNTER-ATTACKS ON BRITISH POSITIONS.

Paris, May 1st.

A Macedonian communiqué says that on April 30th there was a new and strong Bulgarian counter-attack on the recently won British positions near Lake Doiran. This was repulsed with heavy enemy losses. The artillery broke down an enemy grenade attack on the Cerna Bend. There has been the liveliest artillery on the whole front.

Russian Front.

EARLIER CABLES.
[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ATTACKS BY KURDS.

CAVALRY TO THE RESCUE.

LONDON, May 1st.

A wireless Russian official message states that near Armirda, south-westward of Bana, a large party of Kurds heavily attacked our barrier-guard. Our cavalry restored the situation.

Attacks by Kurds on the local inhabitants in our rear are becoming more frequent.

Naval Activities.

EARLIER CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

TO FIGHT SUBMARINISM.

MR. LLOYD GEORGE AT THE ADMIRALTY.

LONDON, May 1st.

The Times states that at the request of his colleagues in the War Cabinet Mr. Lloyd George spent the whole of yesterday at the Admiralty in connection with the submarine menace. They held a thorough stock-taking of the anti-submarine organisation, and conferred with the officials concerned.

General.

LATEST CABLES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

EMPIRE HARBOURS.

LONDON, May 2nd.

In the House of Commons, replying to Mr. Lamb, Mr. Walter Long said it was unlikely that any action would be possible during the war respecting the Dominion's Commission's recommendations in regard to the co-operation of Empire harbours.

SAVING WOOD.

THE PACKING OF COTTON.

LONDON, May 2nd.

The War Office announces that the use of wooden packing cases for exported cotton goods will be limited to certain finer fabrics. It is estimated that there will be a saving of wood by this method of 50 per cent.

THE LATE EARL CROMER.

LONDON, May 2nd.

The late Earl Cromer has left £17,000 sterling.

SILVER.

LONDON, May 2nd.

Silver is quoted at 37 9/16. The market is quiet.

EARLIER CABLES.

TILBURY DOCK TROUBLE.

LONDON, May 1st.

The Tilbury dock workmen have resumed work, pending negotiations.

RUSSIAN ELIGIBLES CALLED UP.

LONDON, May 1st.

The Russian Government has ordered the Russian eligibles in Great Britain to report by the 25th inst.

NO NEWS FROM GERMANY.

ZURICH, May 1st.

There has been no news from Germany, except the Wolff telegrams, since April 24th.

DUTCH TOWN BOMBED.

THE HAGUE, April 30th.

An aeroplane last night bombed the towns of Zierikzee, Zeeland. Three persons were killed and there was much damage.

HEAVY DAMAGE.

The effect of the bombs at Zierikzee was terrible. All the houses in one street were destroyed, and others were unroofed. Fire broke out, but was rapidly extinguished.

The population were panic-stricken. The nationality of the aeroplane has not been established. It is stated from Sluis that two German aeroplanes last evening appeared above Sasvanger and disappeared south-westward.

AMERICAN LOAN TO BELGIUM.

WASHINGTON, May 1st.

In addition to the loans to France and Italy, the United States will shortly lend Belgium about \$30,000,000.

BRITAIN AND AMERICA.

MUTUAL HELP.

WASHINGTON, May 1st.

Mr. Balfour and Mr. Lansing longly conferred at the White House. It is understood that they reviewed the entire situation, particularly considering where Great Britain's experience would be valuable to the United States, and preparing a way for the major decisions which will be worked out later.

PAUL DUFALUT.

There was a satisfactory "house" at the Theatre Royal last evening to welcome Paul Dufault, the popular French Canadian tenor, on his return visit to the Colony, along with his accomplished assistants. As on the last occasion Paul Dufault was here, the programme dealt with was of a most entertaining character. The various contributors selecting numbers which were bound to appeal to the most critical audiences. Paul Dufault was often before the audience, and it will be a long time before those present will forget his rendering of "O Little Mother O Mine." All the rich dramatic fervour of which Dufault is capable was infused into this rendering, and in his other numbers the delightful tenor was also heard to great advantage. Miss Bindley again made herself a real favourite with her various renderings, and she reached the audience in a most remarkable manner with her singing of "A Memory." Mr. Empson, the pianist, also dealt with his various numbers in a manner which was thoroughly pleasing, and, like the other artistes, he had to reply to encores.

NEWSPAPERS.

HALVING THE SUPPLY OF PAPER AT HOME.

In the course of his speech in the House of Commons, Mr. Lloyd George said: "The next question we had to consider was the question of paper, which absorbs a good deal of tonnage in this country. I mean paper for newspapers and paper for wrapping packages. I had no idea that such a quantity of paper was used for that purpose. They both consume an enormous tonnage of paper. Now I cannot say whether I ought to treat newspapers as a luxury, a comfort, a stimulant (loud laughter), or a necessity of life. (An Hon. Member.—'Or a nuisance.') But I think if men had to choose between their breakfast and the morning newspapers they would choose the former. Still there is no doubt that they have been of enormous assistance to us in the effective waging of the war. (Cheers.) There is no better proof of that than the brilliant success achieved by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his recent war loan (cheers), and I am sure that that success is in a very large measure due to the patriotic support given to him by the great newspapers of this country. Still, in war, when we have to choose between very stern alternatives, I am afraid we shall have to deprive ourselves of a certain number of pages of the prints which we peruse with such satisfaction and instruction every morning. In France the newspapers have been cut down to practically two sheets. I find the same thing in Italy."

We have come to the conclusion that we have got very substantially to reduce the paper and the paper material imported into this country. In 1914 1,800,000 tons was imported. I think my right hon. friend was responsible for bringing that down to 1,200,000 tons. We propose to halve that supply and reduce the annual import to 600,000 tons, the reduction to be distributed equally between the printing and the packing trades. We recognise that it is a very serious hardship, but a saving of 600,000 tons is a very important addition to our national security, and I feel it is imperative that it should be made. The importation of printed posters, paper hangings, and certain kinds of foreign printed matter, such as books and periodicals, will be prohibited; otherwise it would be unfair to our printing trades at home. Restrictions on the use of paper for posters, catalogues, and Government departments will also be made.

MUD ON THE WESTERN FRONT.

No English dictionary can express the qualities of the mud on the Western front, says *The Observer*, but a writer in *Truth* does his best. Basing his description on the remark of a private that the mud (Anglo variety) was "like a particularly only he used another word—passionate kiss," he proceeds:—"But all mud is not like kisses. Some of it is like beer, and some is like stout, and some is like gruel, and some is like honey, and some is like treacle, and some is like newly-laid cement, and some is like old Cheshire cheese, and some is like ripe Camembert, and some is like over-stewed beef, and some is like underclothing in a wash-tub, and some is like jam roly-poly, and some is like French mustard, and some is like English mustard, and some is like condensed milk, and some is like a under-boiled egg, and some is like a hard-boiled egg, and some is like the waters of the Dead Sea, and some is like molten lava in the crater of Manna Loa." Moreover, its colour is just as various, and so is its smell: the composite smell being that of "half-rotten apples left to rot."

Ten gold medals, won at Cambridge University by one of the most distinguished scholars of his year, were sent to the Chancellor of the Exchequer as a gift to the country to help to win the war. The medals have been returned because although the financial strain is great, it is not serious enough to permit the country to accept the sacrifice of a great scholar's laurels.

THE BUSINESS NAMES ACT.

NEW LEGISLATION IN BRITAIN.

The Registration of Business Names Act, 1916, came into force on February 22nd in Great Britain, writes a legal correspondent of the *Manchester Guardian*. It is, therefore, of interest to record briefly the main effect of the somewhat elaborate and complicated provisions of the new statute.

Substantially, the Act applies only to individuals and firms engaged in business (which includes the professions) and having a "place of business" in the United Kingdom. The Act does not extend to persons or firms that have no place of business within the United Kingdom. Nor does it affect association of persons which are not carried on for profit and therefore are not partnerships in the commercial or legal sense, such as members' clubs, literary or religious societies, or mere co-owners or co-tenants of property. Again, corporations and limited companies, whether public or private, do not come under the Act, and there is nothing to prevent a firm which otherwise would have to register from avoiding registration, with its attendant disadvantages, by changing its title during the next month into a limited company.

With regard to ordinary persons and firms, it is important to consider in what cases registration is and in what cases it is not required.

First, with regard to individuals. An individual trading on his own account is not required to register, if he trades under a business name which consists of his true surname together with his Christian names or "forenames," or the initials thereof; and to this may be added, without need for registration, an indication that the business is carried on in succession to a former owner. Thus John Jones may trade as "John Jones," or as "J. Jones," or simply as "Jones," or as "Jones, successor to Brown," without being registered. If, however, the business name contains any other or further addition beyond those specified above registration becomes necessary; thus John Jones trading as "Jones and Co." or as "Jones" must register. Again, an individual trading under a fictitious or an assumed name must register, and it makes no difference whether the change of name was made by deed or in any other formal or informal manner, or whether it was before or after the Act. Indeed, the only cases in which a change of name does not necessitate registration are—(1) where a woman has changed her name in consequence of marriage; (2) where the name of a natural-born British subject has been changed before the age of 18; and (3) in the case of peers and analogous titular changes.

Next, with regard to firms or partnerships. As in the case of individuals, so firms need not register if their business name consists merely of the true surnames (with or without the addition of Christian names or initials) of all the individual partners; and here also a mere addition indicating succession to a former owner is permitted. Thus John Jones and Tom Brown may trade as "Jones and Brown" or "J. Jones and T. Brown," successors to Robinson," and so on, without being registered. Again, where two or more individual persons have the same surname, an "s" may be added to that surname in order to represent those partners in the plural, without registration becoming necessary; thus a firm consisting of two Browns and a Jones may trade, without registering, as "Brown, Brown, and Jones," or as "Browns and Jones." But any other or further addition renders registration necessary. Thus "Brown, Jones & Co.," or "Brown & others," or "Brown & Sons" must be registered. So, too, if the firm trades under a fictitious or descriptive name, or if any member of the firm has changed his name (with the like exceptions as those enumerated above in the case of individuals). Thus, apparently, if Mr. Brown, of the firm of "Jones and Brown," changes his name into Smith the firm must register whether it retains its original business name of "Jones and Brown" or whether it changes that name into "Jones and Smith."

Where a firm, individual, or corporation carries on business as nominee or trustee for some other person, persons, or corporation (of whatever nationality), or acts as general agent for any foreign firm, such nominee, trustee, or agent must register and supply various statutory particulars. Hence executors who carry on the business of the deceased must register as trustees. Whether a firm which acts in the fiduciary capacity of agent or trustee, principal comes within their provisions seems doubtful. Trustees in bankruptcy and receiver and managers appointed by the Court are exempted.

Where registration is necessary it must be effected by sending to the local registrar the prescribed form (which will be obtainable at the post office) duly filled in with the following particulars: (a) the business name; (b) the general nature of the business; (c) the principal place of business; (d) the present and any former Christian name and surname of the proprietor or partners, their nationality and in some cases their nationality of origin, their usual residence and business occupation and other details. The statement will ultimately be filed by the registrar, who will issue a certificate which must be kept exhibited at the principal place of business of the firm. All changes of name or personnel in the firm must be registered within fourteen days. Various penalties are imposed for failure to register or for furnishing false statements. In addition, incurring heavy penalties by way of fine, a firm or person that makes default in registration may lose their civil rights of enforcing contracts entered into during the period of default.

Furthermore, every individual or firm required by the Act to be registered must state in all trade catalogues, circulars, and business letters the following particular: present and any former names of the proprietor partners, their nationality if not British, and (if their nationality is not the nationality of origin) their nationality or origin. These particulars, however, need only be stated on trade catalogues, etc., which are issued or sent "to any person in any part of His Majesty's dominions"—not on those sent to foreign countries. Non-compliance with these provisions is punishable by fine.

Lastly, there is a provision enabling the registrar to refuse to register any firm name containing the word "British," if he is satisfied that such name is misleading by reason of the nationality of the persons owning or controlling the firm. There does not appear to be much necessity for this clause, seeing that in any event such a firm would have to register and so disclose the name and nationalities of the partners.

GERMAN ATROCITIES.

TERRIBLE CHARGES MADE BY THE RUSSIAN COMMISSION.

A further report of the Commission appointed by the Czar to inquire into German atrocities has been issued. The report, which is accompanied by photographs, some of a most revolting character, deals with outrages committed during various stages of the war. Dealing with the employment of explosive bullets, the Commission certify that they have investigated and substantiated no less than 1,873 cases of Russian soldiers wounded by them. These figures, however, give but a very faint idea of the enormity of these diabolical weapons, as they comprise only the comparatively few cases in which the victims survived. The enemy began to use explosive bullets at all points of the front from the very beginning, in spite of their constant declaration that they were only employed for range finding.

"YANKEE WOUNDS." In this connection it is significant that their systematic use induced a number of Austrian officers to address a protest to the War Ministry at Vienna, in which they said: "The wounds caused by these bullets are frightful. In the name of humanity we protest against the further use of them, and beg you to discontinue the use of these range-finding cartridges."

That these bullets are used in enormous quantities is proved by the fact that at one period between September and January over 31,000 were collected along one front only of the Russian army. Austrian machine-guns have also been captured provided with explosive ammunition, and it has been proved that for whole days together the enemy kept up uninterrupted rifle and machine-gun fire entirely with explosive bullets.

One section of the report deals with the employment of corrosive acids for increasing the sufferings of men *hors de combat*, and says: "The enemy pours burning and corrosive fluids over the Russian soldiers. The effects of the use of acids are frightful. When it falls upon the body it burns deeply through the clothes, the skin at once begins to smoke, the flesh falls away from the bones, and the latter become carbonised."

"The men attacked with these acids generally expire in the most awful agonies. The suffering victims very rarely survive. Jars containing a fluid for destroying eyesight have also been discovered in the possession of a German officer and soldiers who were taken prisoners."

Instances are cited of the deliberate killing of wounded Russians, who were brutally murdered by bullet wounds and fire cuts. In one case a German Red Cross stretcher-bearer, when asked to bandage a wounded man, coolly drew a revolver and twice shot the unfortunate man.

A TORTURED COSSACK.

One section deals with the torture of a wounded Cossack with a view to extorting information. The examining officer, when the Cossack did not reply to his questions, struck his victim with his fist, saying: "Speak up, you Russian swine!"

The man was then conducted to a torture chamber, where he was stripped naked and placed upon a table. The officer then attached an electric needle connected with a dynamo to the Cossack's wounded leg, and applied the torture for half an hour. The victim heroically refused to give any information, and the torturing process was repeated on the two following days. This proving unsuccessful, the officer applied a bar of red-hot iron and rubbed it over the Cossack's feet. In spite of his frightful sufferings the latter managed to escape.

During an advance on the Russian left flank, the Germans placed a company of Russian infantry prisoners in a park, took them out one by one, and after raising them on the points of their bayonets, threw them into the river.

During a village fight the Germans captured 20 Russian soldiers, and imprisoned them in a house for three days without food or medical assistance. When the Germans withdrew, they set fire to the house after placing cartridges in the roof. Ten managed to crawl out, but the rest were burnt to death.

HINDENBURG'S COLD-BLOODED CRUELTY.

Sir Alfred Turner recounts the following concerning von Hindenburg in a letter to the *Saturday Review*. "To illustrate the cold-blooded cruelty of the man—At the battle of Tannenberg a number of Russians were driven into the marsh, where they began gradually to sink. Their cries for help were pitiful. The German soldiers moved on pity and tried to rescue them, but were prevented from doing so by their brutal officers, and Hindenburg said: 'Let them drown. It will be a good lesson to Russians not to defile East Prussia with their presence again.' Our Russian Allies will not forget this on the day of reckoning."

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(Continued at foot of next column.)

THEATRE ROYAL.

FOR THREE NIGHTS ONLY.
COMMENCING TO-MORROW (FRIDAY), MAY 4th.

ENORMOUS ATTRACTION

MAURICE E. BANDMAN PRESENTS

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PRICES AS USUAL. TICKETS AT MOUTRIE'S.

TEACHING OF HISTORY.

Mr. Robert Blatchford writes in the *Sunday Chronicle*:

Gentle reader, will you do me a favour? Will you lay your hand upon your heart, and tell me, without consulting any book of reference, what you know about Abigail Hill?

Nothing? Thank you. Then you are unfit to hold a commission in the Royal Marines.

If you ask me what Abigail Hill has to do with the Royal Marines, or with the European War I shall answer with becoming modesty that I do not know. I have never served in the Royal Marines, and I cannot remember anything about Abigail Hill although the gentleman's name has a familiar sound.

Before I proceed any further with this subject I should like to ask another question, but feel that it would hardly be playing the game. I should like to ask who draws in the examination papers for the Naval Board of Education, and is he a conscious or unconscious humorist?

Our readers may not know that before a private or non-commissioned officer in the Army or the Royal Marines can become eligible for promotion to commissioned rank he must obtain the regulation First Class Educational Certificate.

One of the subjects in the examination for that certificate is history. The candidate's knowledge of history is tested by a number of questions on the paper. If he fails to answer a due proportion of these questions he is plucked; he fails; he does not get his commission.

Now, into the question of whether a knowledge of history is essential or useful to military or naval officers I shall not presume to enter. To be sure an officer might storm a trench, or sink a submarine, without any knowledge of the origin, strategy of Tighnath Plesore, or the original of the first Punic War. But culture is culture, though. Two thousand pounds of education did "drop to a ten-pound weight." And although the Kings of England were a mixed lot, a knowledge of their names has the one advantage of assuring us that we know the worst, and there are no more of them.

Let us return to our nuttons.

ROSEBUD FOR WOULD-BE OFFICERS.
A correspondent of the *Morning Post* has added to the gaiety of nations by quoting in that paper some of the questions from a history paper sent to the candidates for commissions in the Royal Marines. He gives four questions, and proposes to deal with them, "in the case of going in," as we used to say in Old Trafford. Here is the first over:

"What do you know of the following: Sarah Jennings, Abigail Hill, Christopher Wren, Queen Anne's Bounty, the *Daily Courant*, St. Ignace (Bolingbroke), and Harley?"

Honest confession being good for the soul, I make confession and declare that I could not stop more than two of the six deliveries, and could not score off those. Christopher Wren was an architect, who built St. Paul's and many of the City churches. Whether he attended the State Church or the Baptist Chapel, the names of Abigail Hill and Sarah Jennings have a haunting ring, as though I had been bored about them somewhere in my youth. Bolingbroke I once met as a casual acquaintance, but it is a long while since we were on speaking terms. Of Queen Anne's Bounty I know nothing, except that it never came my way. Harley, perhaps, was a doctor, or am I thinking of Harley-street?

As for the *Daily Courant*, well, I've been a journalist for more than thirty years, and know no more about the *Daily Courant* than I had been driving a dray. If it were the *Daily Mail*, or the *Daily Sketch*, or the *Daily Telegraph*, I could hit it for six. But the *Daily Courant*, it has a musty smell. I could like even to guess its circulation.

There is the honest fact; and before you write me down an ignoramus I want you to perform two exercises.
First: Please ask yourself what you know about Sarah Jennings and Abigail Hill and the *Daily Courant*, and if you know anything how you happen to know it. Second: Imagine all the members of the late Cabinet and the present Cabinet, all the great newspaper proprietors, all the famous novelists, painters, poets, distinguished men, all the shining lights and laureates of the day, and the Honorary Members of Stoke Poges and the Honorary Members of the Stock Exchange, all drawn up in class, and to the distinguished circle Sir Douglas Haig, Viscountess French, Admiral Jellicoe, and Mr. Justice Darling, and then propound the following questions:—What do you know about Sarah Jennings, Abigail Hill, and the *Daily Courant*?

A SPORTING OFFER.
If any illustrious person succeeds in keeping up his wicket through the over, and is out, he shall be given a push him down the next ball, which is a Corporal of Marines who, having been "kicked out of the wicket," so far, is enlisted on his ground by a goody in the shape of a request that he will—"Trace the growth of the demand for Parliamentary reform in the reign of George IV."

I saw in the paper this morning a long list of majors who had been promoted to lieutenant-colonels; and another list of lieutenant-colonels who had been promoted to majors. I am not a betting man, but I should adventure two pieces of eight that not one of those promoted majors, or decorated

subalterns and captains, could tell off his own bat a single circumstance about the demand for Parliamentary reform in the reign of George IV. I will give odds against the double event of any one of those officers being acquainted with both Sarah Jennings and Abigail Hill.

Who was Abigail Hill, and what did she ever do? If we, of the regiment of Marines, were asked about Francis Drake, or "Horatio" Nelson, or Napoleon, or Mohke, or even about Shaw, or Harry Lauder, the question might have some distant practical bearing upon the duty of a journalist or a soldier.

Of course, the questions about Abigail Hill and Sarah have a quaint suggestiveness. They set one wondering who those people were and what they matter. In fact, I own that my curiosity is piqued; and if ever I have the luck to get back to my own house and my own books I will dive into the *Encyclopaedia*, and find out something about Abigail Hill and the *Daily Courant*.

But that will be too late for me to win the war.

LIKE A GAME OF SEEDS.
It is difficult to take such a "historical paper" seriously, but yet one may naturally ask what might its purpose be. It is a string of disconnected, trivial, and irrelevant questions, and it is a want to disqualify the candidate; it is a work of genius. It would have me first

Where have I heard the name of Abigail Hill? There was one Allan Hill, who played for Yorkshire. Now, I give it up. If the questions are meant to test the candidate's knowledge of the art of How Not To Do It, in history, more or less rusty, perhaps, or inexact, but good enough for practical purposes with the help of an atlas and the *Encyclopaedia*, but which of us could answer those questions? Why should a naval or military officer be expected to be prepared to answer on the hair-trigger?

Titus Oates? What did Mr. Gladstone say in 1874? What sort of gaiters did the French Old Guard wear in the campaign of 1805? What was the origin of the "Cavalry" Rebellion in Spain? How did the Greek Hoplites armed in the west of "Pericles"? What enemy did Curtius charge, "horse and foot"? If a historical examination is a game of spoof, one could draw up a list of questions almost as comic as the one quoted in the *Morning Post*.

Isn't possible that at this time of day the officials of a Naval or Military Education Board hold fast to the old pedantic error that education consists in learning a number of irrelevant facts, and that by heart? Do the examiners hold that by heart? Do the examiners hold that before a non-commissioned officer is fit for a commission, he should have studied a period of history, and that it is important to detail with its most unimportant persons or details? Or do they think every officer to be so completely ignorant of the history of the world that he can answer any trivial question put to him?

"PLAY THE GAME."
Of course, as I said just now, culture is culture, and the little coarse Jennings and the little coarse Abigail Hill are like the little coarse boxes containing a heavenly elixir, the boxes containing a heavenly elixir, the boxes containing a heavenly elixir. But I was a shame to stare at the Marine who hid those boxes from him. But I think the examiners ought to play the game. They ought to hand over to him the divine Sarah, and the Scotch Abigail, for study and assimilation, and then question him to make sure that he had collected the heavenly him up like a lamp. But to turn to loose on the universe to hunt for culture amongst all the legion of knaves and fools and dastards who jostle each other in the pages of history, and then to hail him up with the challenge, "Write all you know about Villon and Darius II, and the reasons why monks love to be in kitchens," is not cricket.

A man may know very little history, and may yet have a desultory reading, or he may have swotted up the era of the Great Reform Bill, in which case the knowledge of history might be fair. That would be rough luck, and the Army might lose a good officer.

Luck counts in war time, especially if you spell it with a "p." But it counts also in education and examinations. I remember some years ago an ingenious compiler wrote to me to what I attributed my success to. He was, he said, making a little book, and was writing to a great man, eminent man.
I was then bucked by the idea of being an eminent man, but I did not care to perform in public. So I wrote and said that I would wait until I discovered any success before I should ha, ha, with the other eminent.

But that did not snuff him. He replied in honeyed terms that a man did not always know when he had succeeded, and that I was much more eminent than many who were less eminent than I, and he wanted my little piece. So I wrote and added a private note. "I'll bet you and I are the only eminent who acknowledge that." And I was. When I saw the book and read what it was to which my fellow greatness attributed my success, I laughed; and I think I blushed a little too.

As I say, luck is luck—or did I say that culture is culture—but if I were an examiner, and if I set such a booby trap of a paper as the one we have been considering, and if a Sergeant or Corporal of Marines answered the questions about Abigail Hill, and Sarah Jennings, and the *Daily Courant*, and reform in the reign of George IV., and answered them correctly, should I be tempted to say to that candidate, as Herbert Spencer said to the young man who beat him at billiards, "You are a very proficient arguer, a misapprehension youth."
Meanwhile, it is the custom of our Armies in France and Flanders to give commissions to men who deserve them, and it is not at all likely that Abigail Hill will be called upon in the Great War.

WAR IN NATURE.

When Marcus Aurelius declared that life is a warfare, he probably little realised that he was stating a great biological fact. Nor was that fact fully realised—indeed, it is not fully realised—until Malthus and Darwin drew attention to it. Some people still affirm that there is no struggle for existence—at least as far as man is concerned. Look, it is said, at the blue sky, the warm sunlight, the verdant meadows and woods, the waving corn, the fruitful orchards, the beautiful flowers: all these things are a symbol of happiness and peace, and indicate the central design and purpose of nature. But this fair exterior covers up a pitiless and deadly universal conflict.

It is said that a visit to a battlefront is sometimes deceptive. The combatants are all underground, some of them possibly enjoying wine and cigars, the lark may be heard singing, while near by the peasant tills his land. And so the struggle in nature is masked by an outward appearance of calm, and even of beauty. We admire the flower-like appearance of the living coral, the familiar "sea anemone," for instance; but its flowers bristle with machine-guns—things which discharge poisoned arrows.

THE FIGHT OF THE HIGHER ORGANISMS.
Such is one aspect of the war in nature, the war of the lower against the higher organisms, a war silent, deadly, and unceasing. The latter put up the best defences they can. Both animals and plants secrete bitter or poisonous juices. So efficient are some of these juices (quinine, strychnine, etc.) that man uses them for the very same purpose: and if he would protect wood, he uses the poison secreted by the tree. The fruits of the apple, orange, walnut, chestnut, coco-nut, etc., are protected by an indigestible nut, or hard shell or both. But the energy of the foe against which the higher organisms have to contend is immense. A full grown beech can be killed by a miserable scale-insect (*Aspidiotus*), and for its fabulous power of reproduction we must look to the lower organisms. In this war the lower organisms are the whole winners. Their methods are cowardly and unfair, but they pay the penalty. Degraded they are; and degraded they will ever remain.

UNPROTECTED MANKIND.
Now, as man is a part of nature, it is evident that he cannot be dissociated from this struggle. He is not. He is less protected by nature than most other animals. His knowledge, he has so far been fighting his knowledge against them. The plucked, a losing battle against them. The plucked, a losing battle against them. The plucked, a losing battle against them.

THE UBIQUITY OF PARASITES.
All this is fair fighting. Parasites are, however, in a different category. Fungi and other low-grade plant forms are the pirates of the vegetable world. They exist in incredible numbers, and as they practise every conceivable unfair device, they are absolutely unconquerable. Every known plant is exposed to the attacks of these parasites. The pines and larches are among the hardest of forest trees; yet these are told that the "larch canker" (*Dasythia calycina*) cannot be exterminated. Many of these parasites are "wood-parasites," getting into the tree through an accidental injury. The *Oudemansia* pest (*Oudemansia spiralis*) was first observed among the vines in 1895, and in ten years it had spread over the whole of Europe, and in the vineyards of the East, and in the vineyards of the East, and in the vineyards of the East.

Many more illustrations might be given; but the above, taken from what appears to be the most peaceful domain of nature, should suffice to show that the struggle is never going on. There is even in plants all that we associate with peace. There is, moreover, a law of the most successful. These destroy things better than themselves. They seize upon weak spots; they use stratagem, surprise, elusive tactics, invisibility. We may form a faint estimate of what the plant world suffers from these pests if we consider that, in the protection of man, especially under the protection of man, the value of the food is enormous.

It is said that in the United States in a single year the loss in potatoes caused by *Yong* alone amounted to £7,000,000. The loss in cereals from the same cause was very much greater. And of course, there are pests even more destructive than *Yong*. It has cost the State of Massachusetts alone £2,600,000 to exterminate a single species of caterpillar. A recent paper says: "The havoc which the larch sawfly is making among plantations in the Lake district is exciting alarm in Cumberland." On Skiddaw, where the pest made its first appearance, thousands of larch trees are this autumn being felled; and in the last three years the number thus sacrificed is over 30,000. All the methods adopted to kill the pest have so far failed.

INSECT DEPREDAATIONS.
A volume might be written on caterpillars and their ways. But there are

far more formidable pirates than these. A tick (*Ixodes ricinus*) causes "tick fever" in cattle. Its method of warfare is remarkable. A single female lays from 1,000 to 3,000 eggs on the ground, and as the cattle pass over the ticks, clinging to their feet. The mortality in cattle from this cause is often eighty percent of the herd. The annual loss to the United States caused by this tick alone is estimated at over 100,000,000 dollars. There is no remedy but fight.

Nature has given pets a fabulous power of reproduction. The numbers of the common house fly are prodigious; yet a single house fly may have two or three millions of offspring parasitically upon it. The higher organisms pay a heavy toll to these creatures. It is estimated that the depredations alone cause an annual loss to the United States of over 1,000,000,000 dollars. Not only do pests prey on each other, as for example in Swifts, well-known lines about great fleas and little fleas, but they combine to attack the higher organisms. Thus the tick, the woolly aphis, and the mosquito not only attack on its own account, but is the means of introducing the far deadlier pests of malaria, black-water fever, yellow fever, etc.

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All this is fair fighting. Parasites are, however, in a different category. Fungi and other low-grade plant forms are the pirates of the vegetable world. They exist in incredible numbers, and as they practise every conceivable unfair device, they are absolutely unconquerable. Every known plant is exposed to the attacks of these parasites. The pines and larches are among the hardest of forest trees; yet these are told that the "larch canker" (*Dasythia calycina*) cannot be exterminated. Many of these parasites are "wood-parasites," getting into the tree through an accidental injury. The *Oudemansia* pest (*Oudemansia spiralis*) was first observed among the vines in 1895, and in ten years it had spread over the whole of Europe, and in the vineyards of the East, and in the vineyards of the East, and in the vineyards of the East.

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It is said that in the United States in a single year the loss in potatoes caused by *Yong* alone amounted to £7,000,000. The loss in cereals from the same cause was very much greater. And of course, there are pests even more destructive than *Yong*. It has cost the State of Massachusetts alone £2,600,000 to exterminate a single species of caterpillar. A recent paper says: "The havoc which the larch sawfly is making among plantations in the Lake district is exciting alarm in Cumberland." On Skiddaw, where the pest made its first appearance, thousands of larch trees are this autumn being felled; and in the last three years the number thus sacrificed is over 30,000. All the methods adopted to kill the pest have so far failed.

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THE REAL DANGER OF FAMINE.

THE WORLD'S FOOD SUPPLIES.

[BY FRANCIS GRIBBLE.]

Those who know their Germany have long predicted the coming of a time when the Germans would be eking out a precarious existence by stealing each other's potatoes. That time appears to have come. The plundering of the potato pits by the women of Wesel is probably not the first occurrence of the kind, and it is certainly not the last. One has also heard of bands of hoodlums raiding the shops of the provision dealers and the cellars of the millionaires for hams and eggs and sausages and geese. So we may as well face the question which is bound to arise soon:

What will be the effect of peace, hastened by famine, on the world's food problems? Will it bring quick relief to the stomachs of the sufferers in the Central Empires? Can it do so without causing grave embarrassment to the rest of the world?

In seeking the answers to all questions of the kind, one has to begin by admitting that a good deal will depend upon circumstances which cannot at present be accurately foreseen: next summer's weather, for instance, and the degree of success which attends the new German "sink-at-sight" campaign. These are the unknown variables of the problem; but there are also quite enough fixed and determinate factors to warrant certain inferences. And the chief of the fixed and determinate factors are these:

1. The Germans are at present trying to sink as many as possible of the ships on which they will eventually have to rely for the bulk of the food which they need so badly.

2. The world's production of food is gradually adjusting itself (as the production of any saleable commodity always does) to the demands of a restricted market.

DEMAND FOR FOOD WHEN PEACE COMES.

The first factor in the restriction of the market is, of course, the exclusion from it of an immense blockaded area; the second is the transport difficulty. As a result of the transport difficulty, the consumption of the staple articles of food is diminishing in all the allied and most of the neutral countries. In England we have Lord Devonport doing what he can to check it. In Russia, needless days are more numerous than saints' days; though saints' days are a great deal too numerous. Several limitations have been imposed in France and Italy. Food tickets of one sort and another have been introduced in Holland and Scandinavia. This necessarily discourages food production, which is also impeded, in some cases, by lack of labour. Not only have many agriculturists had to join the Army in many of the Allied countries; there is also the case of the Argentine Republic missing the Italian labour on which it used largely to depend. If we realise these present facts, we shall begin to grasp the conditions which the future peace will bring.

The instant effect of peace will obviously be to bring Germany and Austria-Hungary into the market from which they have so long been shut out. Most likely Roumania and Turkey (if not Bulgaria) will also stand in urgent need of access to it. At the same time all the countries which have been compelled to impose income restrictions on the appetites of its nationals will want to remove those restrictions as soon as possible. Consequently there will suddenly appear in a limited market, at least 150,000,000 new buyers, together with a large number of other buyers who wish to increase their orders. This phenomenon would naturally, in the ordinary course of things, bring about such a sudden call on freight-room and stocks as would send prices soaring to a height hitherto undreamed of by the greediest profiteer, and bring the wolf to the doors of all the well-to-do.

That is our problem; and it is not one of those problems which can safely be left to be solved by the free play of economic forces. So to leave it would be to inaugurate a new war: not the commercial "war after the war" which some of our manufacturers favour, but a sort of economic rough-and-tumble in which we, and our present Allies, and our present enemies, and the neutrals should all be bidding against each other for a limited quantity of corn and meat, and butter, and cheese, and sugar, and the Germans in particular, being the hungriest of the competitors, would offer wealth beyond the dreams of avarice for the chance of cornering essential supplies. Indeed, there is some reason to believe that they are already trying to do this through their agents in neutral countries, and that some contracts have, in fact, been signed.

Now this sort of thing will not do. The inevitable consequences of such a wild scramble would be: absurdly high prices in the rich countries, and widespread distress in the poor countries. Timely measures need to be taken for the prevention of such a state of things; and those measures must be of two kinds. There must be general measures designed to relieve the situation as a whole; and there must also be special measures applicable to the particular circumstances of the Central Empires.

INTERNATIONAL FOOD CONTROL. What the situation as a whole calls for is the establishment of an International Board of Food Control to tide us all over the difficult times. Its functions should be to arrange by agreement for the equitable distribution of the available supplies, and to keep prices at a reasonable level by eliminating competition. It would be, in short, a new kind of trust, intended to protect consumers instead of enriching monopolists; and not only each of the Allied Governments, but also all the neutrals whose interests were affected, would be represented on the board, which would be empowered to cancel contracts as well as to make them. And as such a

(Continued at foot of next column.)

GERMANY HAS NOT THE MEN TO HOLD ALL FRONTS.

[BY HILAIRE BELLOC.]

"The major truth underlying all others about the present situation of the war is that the enemy's front is extended at high tension. He is holding, first and last (excluding Asia), not far short of 2,000 miles of front, and, in spite of the advantages given him by marshes in one place, forests in another, mountains in a third, he has not the men to hold those fronts during the current year, supposing him to be subjected to anything like what has hitherto been the normal wastage of the summer fighting. The Alliance against him has the men not only to hold him upon those fronts, but to supply wastage."

THE FUNDAMENTAL FACT. "That, I repeat, is the fundamental fact upon which the whole position rests. If anyone reads into that fact the certitude of victory it is not my fault, nor the fault of anyone who has the function of stating military problems in military terms. The senseless proplecity of certain victory which has gone on on both sides in this campaign is the most inhuman thing conceivable."

"The enemy knows that this truth with regard to numbers is the cardinal truth dominating all others."

"I said last week, as I had said many times before, that there was an unknown quantity or margin in the shape of the evidence that the Polish recruitment has hitherto wholly failed."

"The Central Empires and their Allies, then, are thrown back upon their own resources, and we know that those resources are insufficient to retain their strength through this year."

"The next essential truth which must be read in connection with this is that the enemy has plumped for hazarding a considerable force at the beginning of the fighting season. We know that he has concentrated it, and we know that he is about to launch it. Conscious of his insufficiency of men compared with his opponents, he had either to eke out to the latest possible date such drafts as he had in sight, or to adopt the opposite policy of using at once all that he could spare to get together. We know that he has chosen the latter policy."

"The third thing we have to remember, which it will be politically essential for us to remember when the final struggle begins, is that the Western Allies have it in their power to force one or more offensive movements where and when they choose."

IF THE ENEMY LAUNCHES HIS OFFENSIVE first, it will be because he has been allowed to do so. Not because he has taken his opponents by surprise. If that offensive continues for some little time without a counter-stroke being launched, it will not be because the counter-stroke cannot be launched. It will be because the delay is deliberately permitted by the Higher Command upon our side."

"But with such amazing comments upon war as those which the public has had to read for a long time past, and with such a flood of writing which does not even pretend to be based upon military study, there is a real danger that the mere launching of an enemy offensive will be enough to produce a bad political effect upon opinion. That effect must be resisted by each of us with his whole power."

"There is no political instrument in this country for strengthening opinion or restricting the weakening or corruption of it by ignorant writers. The remedy can only be found in each man's own self-respect and intelligence."

Land and Water.

board will be difficult to improvise on the spur of the moment, it is important that the necessary arrangements should be made and the necessary negotiations entered into without loss of time.

Our enemies, it is obvious, cannot be parties to those negotiations. On the other hand, they cannot be allowed to enter the market and bid against the board in a period of scarcity due, in a large measure, to their own methods of wanton destruction. To permit that would be to paralyse the board's efforts. The Germans, therefore, will have to come before the board as suppliants, and content themselves with such portions of food as the board may decide to allot them; and they must further note the point is more important to them than to anybody else—that, whatever provision the board may eventually be able to make for them, a considerable time may elapse before it is able to make any provision worth speaking of.

The only considerable stocks of food in the world are those in Russia and Australia; and the claims of Poland, Serbia, Belgium, and the North of France to a share of these will naturally take precedence of the claims of Germany; as will also those of such districts of the Central Empires as the Allies decide to annex. Moreover the delivery of the allotted portion will be difficult, and will involve delay. Russian rolling stock will be fully occupied in distributing food throughout Russia, and German rolling stock is not adapted to the Russian gauge. Australia is far off, and freight room will continue to be scarce. Ships will be wanted for demobilisation; and German ships will not remain at the exclusive service of Germany. Many of them—probably most of them, and possibly all of them—will be confiscated in compensation for the illegal destruction of the ships of the Allies. German submarines. So let Germany be warned.

Let formal notice be served on Germany that, however severe the pinch, the Allies can accept no responsibility for the rapid re-victualing of the country after the conclusion of peace, and that if the Germans wish to avoid famine it is imperative that they should surrender some considerable time before their own stores of food are exhausted.

A notice of the kind was served on the Parisians by Bismarck towards the end of the siege. It is a precedent bound to command respect in Germany, and might therefore advantageously be cited in the notice.—Daily Chronicle.

A SOMME HOSPITAL.

In a hollow in the Somme valley is what would seem to be a builder's yard—or a town very newly planned. That is to say, there are wooden sheds and embryo roads and a railway siding, and there is mud. The mud is important from many points of view—from almost all your actions; your conduct of life becomes increasingly dependent upon the efficiency of your boots to cope with it. You have rubber boots and "impermeables" and snow-boots and anoints, and none of them do more than make you feel you have done your best with a forlorn hope. Often you leave them behind you and bring your feet home without them. The wooden sheds become, arks floating on a sea of mud, and you have no desire to play the rôle of dove, even with a cinder-path or an embankment or a rush-walk to help you. In this quasi-builder's yard are the four thousand beds contained by the great sheds of the evacuating hospital.

HOW IMPOSSIBLE OPERATIONS SUCCEED.

The hospital is an attempt—and an unusually successful attempt—to cope with the wounded of whole armies at once. It is the concentration of all the field hospitals that would otherwise be needed for this region of the great offensive. Men are brought in there in ambulances straight from the "poste de secours" and sorted out into "grand blessés," less serious cases and the "écloués" or worn-out. There is provision for no fewer than eight hundred "grand blessés" at once. These are operated on and kept; the rest are evacuated by the train in the railway siding as soon as it is safe to move them.

After an attack surgeons—some of the most famous names in France—are busy day and night. The operating-rooms are fitted up with every possible means of saving life—all the newest methods have their place there. Operations succeed which normally would be thought impossible. Given the war, the hospital is on a magnificent scale. A little boy from the "Midi," dark and long lashed, was brought in, apparently smashed to pieces. A shell had broken his pelvis and what not beside. After examination and treatment he was packed into a bed much as you would pack the most fragile china in shavings or tissue paper in a box, and he was going to recover. An officer was brought in too—shot through the lungs. Very nervous, he refused to be operated on at first and when at last he consented it was in an agony of apprehension. The lung was taken out and the holes sewn up, and he also is on the way to recovery. One man lived for weeks with an immense stone hung on to the end of his leg to prevent it from falling. Another, but his was an abdominal case, the abdominal cases are the despair of the war.

On the other side of the hospital you find all England. A French "infirmière," who spoke English well, asked a wounded English sergeant how he was getting on. "A I at Lloyd's" was his mystifying reply. Another Englishman was brought in dying. He was alarmed, and asked his nurse whether he was very bad. She told him it was a serious case. An expression of absolute horror came over his face. "He had seen death all round him but somehow 'Stick it!' was the consolatory advice of his comrade in the next bed. 'Stick it!' He died an hour or two after, sticking it, but still horrified."

A "grand blessé" who had been in the hospital considerably longer than was usually the case became the spoilt child of the ward and made the most of his privileges by grumbling more or less constantly. One day he said he was tired of the food and wanted something else. "What do you want?" "Quelque chose de plus délicat." "Well, what, for instance?" He thought a long time and then finally said, "Salt pork." These are the humours of the horrors. It is not much good dwelling on horrors perhaps, except that there is a certain debt to be paid to the men who come where armies meet. These countless operations, many of them highly successful—they are the best of what happens in the hospital, the highest point reached by human science and skill; and the best means unrelentingly suffering. The terrible lung cases with their distressing breathing difficulties, the horrible gas gangrene, the "pieds gelés," the scalp wounds, which, if neglected, cause them to die next day, though men walk in with them as though there was nothing much the matter; even the ordinary flesh wounds—in peace-time we should think hardly enough of them.

Sometimes it is well to dwell on these things, not only out of sympathy, not only out of pity, but out of admiration—admiration that man can so endure. You may say he has to. But if he couldn't endure no man could make him. No one can make a man stand up or fire a rifle or obey if it is not in him to do this. But these men let themselves be hewn and hacked as though they were not so much flesh and blood capable of suffering the same tortures, and they bear their sufferings—almost all of them—without god-like fortitude.

As an organisation the evacuating hospital is a triumph of French method. If you can imagine living in a desert where even the water has to be brought along on a camel's back you get some idea of the transport difficulties to be coped with. Although there is water everywhere, water for use is one of the greatest difficulties. Four thousand beds need a corresponding number of ordies and necessaries. These have to be catered for and fed and warmed and lighted. In the rush of wounded the work is not only enormous but requires the clearest mind and a large amount of knowledge. The case of fire has to be provided against nurses and orderlies—everyone—have gas masks and helmets in case of attack. The food has to be well cooked by the excellent "cuisinier." Of each wounded man an exact record has to be kept, both with a view to further treatment and in case of inquiry about him. "A letter signed 'Pauvre jeune fille' asks for details of the death of her fiancé, and she sends a box of long-stemmed faded flowers to put upon his grave on the hill. A mother would know that her son received the last rites. Another, "How much did he suffer?" Well, these inquiries are answered; but all of it, all the whole magnificent organisation, has sprung up as it were, out of nothing out of the muddy builder's yard, with its hundred wooden sheds, out of the semi-circle on the Somme where armies meet.—H.H. in the Manchester Guardian.

THE "DARK FORCES" AND THEIR WORK.

GLIMPSES OF SECRET HISTORY.

A Russian Correspondent of the London Morning Post writes:—

While, during the revolution of 1905, the then Prime Minister, Prince Sviatopolk Mirsky, approached the Emperor to represent to him the necessity of granting a constitution to Russia, the Emperor answered:—"I shall give the constitution, but I shall be an autocrat." "Yes, your Majesty," answered the Prince. Such was the tale repeated in Court circles in Petrograd. Indeed, since then Russia has been a constitutional Monarchy under an autocratic Emperor, this result being due to the fact that the popular party had no suitable leaders in the great revolution after the Russo-Japanese War. The Russian people were then powerful enough to destroy, but they had not the moral strength to create new institutions. The last ten years of Russian history, however, have brought about great changes in the Russian people. The representatives of the nation have undergone a political training. The Duma has been their school. During their education mistakes were unavoidable. Such a mistake, for instance, was the Viborg manifesto of the second Duma. The Duma then appealed to the country, but it found no support. It was a good lesson, showing that the power of that body was based solely and entirely on the nation. The co-existence of an autocratic Emperor and a constitution was illogical, and friction was the natural consequence.

PARLIAMENTARY POWERLESS.

The Russian Cabinet was quite independent of the Russian Parliament. Ministers were chosen, not from among the members of the Duma (with few exceptions), but from among officials. These took little account of the Russian Parliament, and continually ignored the representatives of the nation. At the outbreak of the war Russia became, at once united as one man. All quarrels and differences disappeared. This state of things, however, did not last long. Russian officialdom took advantage of the patriotism and spirit of self-sacrifice of the nation to increase their own power. They had their own traditions and their own views, and they refused to be trammelled by the new political conditions.

The Grand Duke Nicholas was in touch with the best elements in Russian life. It was the present Prime Minister, Prince Lvov, who, together with Prince Trubetsky, wrote out for the Grand Duke his famous manifesto to the Polish nation. In spite of the approval of the Emperor, reactionary officialdom took alarm. For many of them it meant the loss of comfortable positions in the Kingdom of Poland. The ex-Mayor of Petrograd, Count Tolstoy, related to me what difficulties he experienced with the Minister of the Interior, M. Maklakoff, a typical reactionary. Count Tolstoy had a medal struck to commemorate the establishment of Russo-Polish friendship. The Minister forbade the sale of it. Pointing to the Polish coat of arms, the eagle, on the reverse of the medal, he said:—"I forbid the sale because I do not know what this bird means." "It is the coat of arms of the Kingdom of Poland," answered the Mayor. "I am not aware," the Minister replied, with a grin, "that the Vistula provinces ought to have any arms at all." Count Tolstoy, however, went to the Emperor, and obtained his full approval of the issue of the medal. This incident illustrates the determined opposition of Russian officialdom to any progressive change in the Empire.

REACTIOnARY CAUSES DEFEAT.

The position of the Grand Duke was doomed owing to his discovery of the treachery of Colonel Maslanyevskiy, who, being a friend of the War Minister, Sukhomlinov, furnished the Germans with Russian military secrets. It was proved afterwards that the Russian defeat in the Masurian Lakes was in reality his achievement. Colonel Maslanyevskiy was in touch with the Russian reactionaries, who were annoyed with the Grand Duke, who had caused him to be sentenced to death. Even at that time, however, the Russian Cabinet numbered men who were against pro-German intrigues. Amongst them were M. Krivosheina and M. Sazonov. Several of these Ministers signed a petition to the Emperor urging him to retain the Grand Duke in his position of Commander-in-Chief. In consequence of this they were all gradually dismissed. Reactionaries using the influence of Rasputin, not more and more the upper hand, and became provocative towards the Duma and the Emperor. They hated the very idea of Russia fighting a country whose system they were applying at home, a country in which they were connected by sympathies, nay, often by ties of blood. They made every endeavour to create such a state of affairs in Russia that it should be impossible to carry on the war. As the Germans could not reach Moscow or Petrograd the officials could not make a separate peace with Germany on the ground that Russia was defeated. Therefore, absurd as it may seem, they tried to provoke a revolution. But they underestimated the spirit of the people and they exaggerated their own power. They did not expect such unanimity between the nation and the Army. They imagined that they could easily control the situation, bring about a revolution, conclude peace, and suppress the people.

THE NATION ANSWERS.

The nation, however, was too clever for them. Its leaders decided to revolt, not when it was convenient to officialdom, but when it should suit the national purpose. They were certain of the Army, and they decided in favour of prompt and vigorous action. They were prepared for it, carefully and thoroughly. In vain did officialdom attempt to deceive the people by creating unbearable conditions. In the capital of a country that could feed the whole of Europe there was no bread. The railways often brought luxuries instead of necessities, through bribery by

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ERNEST EMPSON, Pianist.

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Piano Solo... BALLADE A FLAT	ERNEST EMPSON	Chopin
Aria... AH FOUS-LE LUI (de Traviata)	Miss PAULINE BINDLEY	Verdi
Aria... CELESTE AIDA (Aida)	PAUL DUFALT	Verdi
Songs... (a) IRISH FOLK SONG	PAUL DUFALT	Foots
(b) A BIRTHDAY	Miss PAULINE BINDLEY	Cowen
Duet... From ROBIN HOOD	Miss BINDLEY and Mr. DUFALT	De Koven
Interval.		
Piano Solos... (a) PRELUDE	ERNEST EMPSON	Rachmaninoff
(b) HARK, HARK, THE LARK	ERNEST EMPSON	Schubert-Liszt
Songs... (a) HAVE YOU SEEN BUT A WHITE LILLIE GROW...	Anon (1814)	Debussy
(b) MANDOLINE	PAUL DUFALT	Homer
(c) SING TO ME, SING	PAUL DUFALT	Homer
Songs... (a) I HAD MY LOVE...	Miss PAULINE BINDLEY	D'Hardelot
(b) NOBODY KNOWS BUT MOTHER...	Miss PAULINE BINDLEY	Cosgrove
(c) SPRING'S SINGING	Miss PAULINE BINDLEY	MacFadyen
Songs... (a) IF THOU WERT BLIND...	Miss PAULINE BINDLEY	Johnson
(b) SI JE POUVAIS MOURIR	Miss PAULINE BINDLEY	Barbieroli
(c) REVELLE	PAUL DUFALT	Oliver

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HAVE YOU A BAD LEG

with wounds that discharge or otherwise, perhaps surrounded with inflammation and swollen, that when you press your finger on the inflamed part it leaves the impression? If so, under the skin you have poison, which defies all the remedies you have tried. Perhaps your knee are swollen, the joints being affected, the same with the ankle, or even which the skin may be discoloured, or there may be wounds, the disease, if allowed to continue, will deprive you of the power to walk. You may have attended various hospitals, and been told your case is hopeless, or advised to submit to amputation; but do not, try the Grasshopper Treatment, which is a sure and successful remedy in cases of Bad Legs, Ulcerated Joints, Bone and Joint Disease, Carbuncles, Abscesses, Glandular Swellings, Erysipelas, Burns, Scalds, Insect and Dog Bites and all Skin Diseases. Send at once to the Drug Store for a box of

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persons in high places. A country which possesses enormous quantities of gold, platinum, copper, and silver had to be satisfied with one farthing notes. A country which is able to put in the field a million men had to abandon hundreds of miles to the enemy. Nor is this all. The pro-German intrigues were carried on almost openly. The enemy was beginning to write about Russia with disdain, and the Allies tried to hide the truth. The patriotic Russian people could stand such a state of things no longer. They now mean to fight to the end, to combine all their forces to achieve a victory over the ancient enemy of Slavdom.

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until you are worse before starting a campaign against disease. No matter how slight may be your indisposition your duty to yourself demands that you take immediate steps to take it down. Of course, you expect to get better and not worse, but where health is in question you are never justified in leaving anything to chance, and, as is well known, indisposition, instead of disappearing of its own sweet will, frequently develops serious disorders if neglected. Your safest course is to

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HAIPHONG, British str., 1,200, J. H. Evans, 2nd May—Swatow 1st May, General—Douglas LaPrairie & Co.

HAIMON, British str., 641, Russell, 2nd May—Saigon 25th April, General—Butterfield & Swire.

HIGHOW, British str., 1,250, Dillon, 2nd May—Tientsin 27th April, General—Butterfield & Swire.

KANCHOW, British str., 1,222, Lewis, 2nd May—Bangkok 25th April, Rice—Butterfield & Swire.

NAGASAKI MARU, Japanese str., 349, M. Tokayama, 1st May—Takao 25th April, Sugar—Order.

PHROMPHU, British str., 1,036, M. De La Sola, 2nd May—Saigon 25th April, Rice—Order.

UNRAI MARU, Japanese str., 1,129, Kuroshima, 1st May—Wakamatsu 25th April, Coal—Mitsui Bussan Kaisha.

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WEATHER REPORT.

On May 2nd at 11.50—No return from Japanese stations. Passes has increased slightly over Annam and has increased slightly over the south of the Yangtze Valley. The depression over South Manchuria appears to be moving slowly westward.

Hongkong rainfall for 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. today, 0.55 inch. Total since 1st January, 8.65 inches, against an average of 18.08 inches.

The forecast for the 24 hours ending at noon today is as follows—

Dispersed

Hongkong to Gap Rock—(East winds, moderate; fine.)

Formosa Channel—The same as No. 1.

South Coast of China between the same as Hongkong and Lanchow—No. 1.

South Coast of China between the same as Hongkong and Lanchow—No. 1.

CHINA COAST METEOROLOGICAL REGISTER

2ND MAY, A.M.

Station

Hour

Barometer

Temperature

Humidity

Direction

Force

Weather

Station

Hour

Barometer

Temperature

Humidity

Direction

Force

Weather

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Temperature

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Weather

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HONGKONG AND THE GERMANS.

[TO THE EDITOR OF "THE HONGKONG DAILY PRESS."]

SIR.—It is not surprising that the members of the Chamber of Commerce desire to exclude German traders for ten years or for ever, nor would it be surprising if they desired to exclude all other traders, whatever their nationality. Perhaps the members of any other section of the community subject to competition—say, lawyers, doctors, carpenters, shoemakers, or even rich coolies—could see just as well as merchants that certain advantages would accrue to them if they could restrict the number of competitors in their own class. And it is doubtful if there are yet many sections of people the majority of whose members are so altruistic as to vote against a proposal which would appear to promote their own material interests, even if they should realize that it would be to the disadvantage of the general community. The average individual thinks about what promotes his own material interest and, if he has not thought much about economic questions, generally assumes that his interest and the public interest are identical. He associates with others of his class having common interests with himself to promote their common aims. And thus small but influential and powerful sections have, without any scruple, arranged public affairs in the past according to their own ideas and very much to the detriment of the vast majority of the people. But with the improved education of the masses especially with increased consideration and discussion of economic questions, the promotion of class legislation of any kind is becoming more difficult. Class privileges are being gradually curtailed, and the idea is everywhere spreading that on questions of public interest it is not safe to accept the guidance of any particular class or section. On questions of public interest reason is the only guide. Chambers of Commerce are no more competent to guide legislation in the public interest than organizations of lawyers, doctors, tinkers, or tailors. The members of the Chamber of Commerce in Hongkong should have the same right to express their opinions on matters of public policy as the members of any other section of the community, but no more. If they desire to forward their opinions to the Secretary of State for the Colonies they can do so through the Post Office or other proper channel, just as any other section would do. But it is colossal impudence to assume that the Legislative Council should become the instrument of the Chamber of Commerce, and something still worse to threaten to lead in breaking the peace if the ideas of the members are not carried out.

If the members of the Chamber of Commerce contended that it would be in their own interest to exclude the Germans, the contention could be disputed only on very high grounds. But when it is contended that this policy would be "in the best interest of the Colony of Hongkong," reasonable men expect some arguments advanced in support of the contention. The spokesmen for the Chamber have not attempted to show that the general body of the people of the Colony suffered from the business activities of the German traders when they were here. If it were contended that the Germans sold inferior goods at higher prices than other traders, or that the Germans were harsher in pressing their customers for earlier payments, there might appear to be some force in the argument. But nothing of the kind is contended. On the contrary, it is said they gave longer credit. And their customers are asked to believe that this was against the public interest. I think they will never believe it. And as for fraudulent dealing, if it is contended either that the Germans are all dishonest or that Britons are all honest, I think sensible people will never believe either.

It is claimed that to-day "the trade of this port is in a healthier and sounder condition than it has been for many years." It is a great pity that war should bring grist to any mill. If there were no profits from war there would be more chance for peace. But high profits for merchants is only one side of the question and not the most important. The public, both European and Chinese, are complaining bitterly about the increase in prices, and I think a little keener competition between traders would be in the public interest. British merchants used to recognise that "competition is the life of trade" but the merchants of Hongkong

seem to think that the more competition is restricted the better for Hongkong. There is no sound economic argument for excluding Germans from the Colony any more than there is for excluding Russians, Italians, and Frenchmen.

It is said to be a trick among lawyers when one has a bad case to abuse his opponent. In like manner the spokesmen of the Chamber of Commerce, being short of arguments that would appeal to reason, supplied invective that appealed to a blind, dangerous and deplorable sentiment. In their reciprocal actions, men may be guided by either of two sentiments—good-will or ill-will. The spirit of benevolence is everywhere the concomitant of progress. It has been associated with every action that has ever helped to lift man above the mere brute. But ill-will has everywhere obstructed progress. It has been behind every reaction, and everywhere associated with ignorance, and selfishness has been the fundamental cause of the decay of all dead civilizations. It is the most blind and brutal of human passions. The man who hates his fellow-man is more dangerous than a mad dog. Can any of these men, who we are told, are really great enough to control millions of dollars, point out any good that ever accrued to humanity from conduct based on ill-will—the sentiment to which they are pandering for support of a policy that promotes their own material interests? Can a policy based on selfishness and ill-will possibly lead to beneficial results? Do we not owe the war itself and all its attendant evils to selfishness and ill-will? Has not the selfishness and ill-will of Germany's rulers and advisors brought disaster on the German people? If we become animated with the same sentiment, can we attain a different end? Can we sow the same kind of seed and reap a different kind of harvest? Will not like causes produce like effects? Do the great men who are fostering this spirit of ill-will intend it to last for ever, or only for ten years? After this period are we to aim at peace on earth and good-will among men again? If peace and good-will are ever really desirable why not as soon as possible?

By peace I do not mean a patched-up truce, where either people will live under fear or dread of the other, but a genuine peace based on good-will. Mr. Holyoak, in reply to the question: "Are we to return hate for hate?" answered: "Certainly not; but we have a sacred and solemn charge to perform and that is to punish the guilty." And I do honestly believe that you cannot exercise the evil spirit which is in the German people quite as much as in the German rulers, until the territories of Germany are penetrated by our troops and their villages laid waste and they are made to feel that war means within the compass of their own country.

If this be not hate for hate, it is something so closely approaching it that it is very difficult to distinguish the difference. It is certainly not good-will, and hate could not desire much worse. But the audience who supported Mr. Holyoak's resolution in the City Hall made no pretensions of not returning hate for hate.

Now as to punishing the guilty, I submit that excluding Germans from Hongkong even if it were practicable, would not affect those who are guilty, or at least guilty in the greatest degree, and that even if it did it is not a form of punishment compatible with the crime committed. I disagree with Mr. Holyoak that the German people are as guilty as the German rulers. The system of Government in Germany is such that, instead of the Government being "the tool of the people," the people are only tools of the Government—the Kaiser and his selected assistants. The Government controlled the schools and the Press, and thus influenced the people's minds. In spite of this, however, there was a strong and growing peace party in Germany. The rulers had to lie to the people to get their support for the war. Most Germans thought the war was forced on them. The war has been carried on in a most barbarous manner, but what have the people to do with that? The people had little voice before the war. They have none at all now. I have read from an American report that the deportations in Belgium brought tears to the eyes of German soldiers. The real guilt and responsibility is with the German rulers. Excluding Germans from Hongkong would not touch them. The German rulers have brought sorrow and suffering to millions of German people as well as to us. Let us aim at peace with the German people and helping them to depose the tyrants who have ruled over them. We could not trust the present ruling class of Germany to respect any terms of peace arranged with them. Let us openly proclaim that we will make no arrangements with them, but if the German people can establish a government where the democracy can rule, and agree to make reparation to Belgium and France, and let Poland become reunited, they shall be subject to no penal treatment but shall have the same rights as the people of any other nation. This is the only kind of policy that can make for peace and good-will. Any other policy must flow from the very nature of things.

Germans cannot be excluded from Hongkong unless they are excluded from the Empire. They cannot be excluded from the Empire unless they are excluded from the territories of the Allies. To try to exclude the German people and their trade from the territories of the Allies would be an attempt to crush the German people. The Germans might just as well die fighting as submit to such conditions. The adoption of such a policy would prevent a revolution and make the war last for years—with results that no one can foresee.—Yours respectfully,

J. H. McGUIGAN.

HONGKONG MAGISTRACY.

THEFT OF BOLTS.

An ash-boat coolie was charged before Mr. Wood with the theft of seven brass bolts valued at \$2.80 from the s.s. *Xuenang*. The bolts were found in a basket which the man was carrying. His excuse was that he had found them among some rubbish, which he was told to carry away.

Sentence of three months' hard labour and four hours' stocks was passed.

THEFT FROM KOWLOON DOCK.

Sentences of fourteen days' hard labour and four hours' stocks, and seven days' hard labour, respectively, were passed upon two odd job coolies by Mr. Melbourne for stealing a quantity of lead from the Kowloon Docks. The man who was sentenced to stocks, in addition to fourteen days, will spend his four hours outside the main gates of the works, it being hoped that this would have a salutary effect upon other coolies in the works.

STOLE FOR FOOD.

"I was very hungry, I had no money, so I stole to buy food," was the statement made by a coolie when charged before Mr. Wood with the theft of a water-smoking pipe. He added that he had recently come down from the country to look for work, had found none, and he had to steal in order to obtain food.

The man, who went into a Chinese shop in Des Voeux Road, picked up the pipe and ran out to be subsequently arrested by a Chinese Police Reservist, was sentenced to fourteen days' hard labour. The Special Constable had to chase the defendant along several streets.

ROBBERY.

A Chinese of the coolie class was charged before Mr. Wood with breaking and entering a house in Wongneichong village, and stealing a gold watch, one gold chain, one stone seal, and diamond finger ring and a sovereign, of the total value of \$380.

Inspector Sim stated that at the time of the robbery the occupant of the house was at home. The defendant was traced to Macao, and it was in this place that he was arrested by the complainant and brought down to Hongkong under an extradition warrant.

The Magistrate sentenced the man to six months' hard labour and four hours' stocks.

A TRIP TO MACAO.

The sum of \$307 was handed to a Chinese employed on a Japanese steamer for the purpose of paying "subs" to some firemen, coal-trimmers and cooks. He paid out various sums amounting to \$121, and then left for Macao with the balance, \$186. He spent a week in Macao, and, upon returning to Hongkong, on Tuesday night, was arrested. In reply to the charge the man said he had spent the money.

Asked by Mr. Melbourne if he had squandered the money in gambling, defendant admitted that such was the case. He was sentenced to three months' hard labour.

In reply to the Magistrate, Inspector Brazil said that all the men concerned had been done out of their wages.

THE RECENT EXHIBITION OF WOMEN'S WAR WORK.

At the exhibition of work at the City Hall on Tuesday last the winner of the gold bracelet, presented by the Chinese Ladies' Work Party was Mrs. H. Stainfield (ticket No. 40). If Mrs. Stainfield will kindly send her ticket to Mrs. Stabb, St. John's Place, Garden Road, the bracelet will be forwarded to her.

The winner of the travelling clock, presented anonymously, was Miss Joyce Holyoak (ticket No. 29).

The reflexes for the silver belt, pearl ring and jade pin are being continued at Mrs. Green's work party, "Our Little Bit Society," 15, Hankow Road, Kowloon; also the picture embroidered by Mrs. A. H. Skelton, and the silver tea-set presented by the Ladies of the Jewish Recreation Club.

The results of all these will be announced as soon as they are drawn.

MINISTERING CHILDREN'S LEAGUE.

ENTERTAINMENT AT KOWLOON.

An enjoyable entertainment was given by the children of the Kowloon branch of the Ministering League at St. Andrew's Church Hall, Kowloon, yesterday afternoon. It was arranged by Mrs. E. R. Aitken (secretary of the branch), Miss Stone, Miss Dunbar and Miss Hickie. The first part of the programme was as follows:—

Patriotic Song and Chorus, V. Sutcliffe, P. Ogilvie, P. Searle, B. Tarrant, Ian Dill, some of the Girls; Recitation and Song, Marjory Aitken and Chorus. Days of the week: Sunday, Clara Frost; Monday, Nysalie Pearce; Tuesday, Bessie George; Wednesday, Pearl Ogilvie; Thursday, Beatrice Bliss; Friday, Majorie Scott; Saturday, Violet Sutcliffe. Recitation, "Phases of the Moon," John Martin, D. Mackie, E. French, Pearl Ogilvie, and Nellie Mackie. Song, "Dollies to sell," Kathleen Murphy, Clara Frost, Cathie Russel. Pianoforte solo, Connie Martin.

The second part of the programme consisted of a fairy play entitled "Lost Toys," which was very creditably performed. The characters were sustained by the following:—Maise Leigh, Marjorie Scott, Jack Frost, Nysalie Pearce, Fairies, Nellie Mackie, Marjory Aitken, Edith Bliss, Betty Martin. The Toys—Teddy Bear, Eddie French, Golliwog, Douglas Mackie, Tin Soldier, Mabel Spradbury, Clown, Beatrice Bliss; White Rabbit, John Martin; Baby Doll, Bessie George. Bells—Violet Sutcliffe, Bertha Tarrant, Peggy Searle, Pearl Ogilvie.

There were two scenes—"In a Wood, on Xmas Eve"; and "Toys on the Xmas Tree." The second of these was most effective, the Christmas tree being very daintily dressed and illuminated with many small electric lights, which created a most fairly-like effect. The audience was a large one and showed keen appreciation and enjoyment throughout.

SPORT.

HONGKONG C.C. TENNIS TOURNAMENT.

Three games were played in connection with the above yesterday, one of which, the Mixed Doubles, was played in the War Charities Court before a very fair attendance. In the Mixed Doubles, Mrs. Armstrong and the Rev. C. L. Cooper Hunt (owe 30) beat Mr. and Mrs. Kent (owe 15-1), 6-1, 6-2, in a game which was always in favour of the winners. This was a first-round game.

Nisbet was knocked out of the "A" Class, Gent's, by F. A. Redmond. Nisbet owed 30, and Redmond received 3-6. Despite the handicap Nisbet won the first set, 6-2, but, after this, as the result of some very clever and hard tennis Redmond went on to win the next two sets and the match, 6-2, 7-5. As a result of his win Redmond passes into the final, when he will have to meet either Green (owe 30-3), or Soeters (rec. 4-0). In a game in "B" Class, Winckler (rec. 3-0), beat Pestonji (rec. 15-3), 6-3, 6-4.

ASSOCIATION FOOTBALL.

27th MIDDLESEX v. 88th COY. R.G.A. These teams met in a "friendly" at Happy Valley yesterday. In spite of the trying weather, both teams put plenty of dash into their play, and the result was a good fast, if rather uneven, game. Play for a time was in the centre of the field. Youngman opened the scoring for the Artillerymen, by breaking through the defence, and, after a good sprint, sending in a nicely placed shot. Shortly afterwards Jones added the second point with a shot from well out on the left wing. The ball hit the upright and bounced back on to the goalkeeper, cannoning off him into the net. The Gunners were pressing hotly at this period, and Lunn turned the leather nicely into the net again, but the goal was disallowed as Mancini was offside. Jones was responsible for the third point, and the teams changed over with the R.G.A. leading by three goals to nil.

In the second half the Infantrymen got more into their stride, and for a time worried the 88th Coy. quite a lot. A fine swinging shot from the left wing was punched away in good style by the custodian, and then the Gunners took up the running again. Their left wing, well fed by his inside man, put in some very clever work, but the Middlesex goalkeeper played a good game and his opponents were unable to get the tatter past him until "time" had nearly expired. The final goal, for which Jones was responsible, was a rather lucky one, as the goalkeeper had his vision obscured by one of his own players, who tried to head the ball away but failed to reach it properly, the ball going over his head into the goal. Result:—88th Coy., R.G.A., 4; Middlesex Regt., 0. Referee—Mr. Jones.

BOWLING.

The Bowling Section of the Civil Service Club is holding its formal opening day on Saturday next.

INTIMATIONS

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TELEPHONE 1741, 1742.

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LOOSE COVERS A SPECIALITY.

NOTE!

WE HAVE JUST RECEIVED A CONSIGNMENT OF PRINTED TAFFETAS & CRETONNES

IN NEWEST STYLES AND COLOURINGS.

CALL AND SEE THEM

OR

SEND FOR PATTERNS.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

ISHERWOOD CIGARETTES.

HAND-MADE IN CHINA.

No. 3, Large ...

\$4.50 per 100

or 2.30 .. 50

No. 4, Medium ...

\$3.60 per 100

or 1.85 .. 50

No. 5, Small ...

\$3.20 per 100

or 1.65 .. 50

Ask your

tobacconist

for a tin

at once.



Known all over

the world as the

most popular

Egyptian

Cigarette

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An absolutely

first quality

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Recommended

by all

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KELLY & WALSH, LTD.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

A. S. WATSON & Co.

HONGKONG HOTEL KIOSK.

[467-1]

Wm. Powell & Co. Ltd.

TELEPHONE 346

BABY-CARS

PERAMBULATORS

MAIL-CARTS

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NEW STOCKS

INSPECTION INVITED.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

HONGKONG STOCK EXCHANGE
IT IS HEREBY NOTIFIED that the HONGKONG STOCK EXCHANGE will be CLOSED on WEDNESDAYS at 1 o'clock P.M. until further Notice.
 By Order of the Committee.
E. HANCOCK, Secretary.
 Hongkong, 2nd May, 1917. [633]

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM ASSOCIATION OF HONGKONG.

MEETING at the Theatre Royal (THURSDAY) the 3rd May, at 8.30 p.m., to pass the proposed Rules and Regulations (a copy of which can be seen at my Office, 4, Des Voeux Road Central), and to elect Officers and a Committee, and to transact other business.
 The Honorable Mr. P. H. HOLYOAK will take the chair.
A. S. D. OUSLAND, Hon. Secretary, pro tem.
 Hongkong, 30th April, 1917. [581]

NOTICE.

I HAVE THIS DAY REMOVED my OFFICE from Queen's Building to 2nd Floor of Messrs. A. Tack & Co.'s Building, Des Voeux Road Central.
WEI A YUK, [589]
 Hongkong, 30th April, 1917.

NOTICE.

WE HAVE from This Day Opened our Offices at New York San Francisco and Hongkong under the Firm Name of **KARANJIA & Co.**
 Our Local Office is situated at No. 2, Connaught Road.
KARANJIA & Co., [594]
 Hongkong, 30th April, 1917.

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to sell by Public Auction, ON WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY AND FRIDAY, the 6th, 10th and 11th May, 1917, commencing each day at 11 a.m. at his Sales Rooms, Duddell Street.

A Large Quantity of Burroughs & Wellcome's Tablets (various assortment), Kepler's Malt and Oil, Allen Hanbury's Byno Preparations, Patent Medicine, Hair Oil and Dyes, etc., etc.

Also.
 A Large Quantity of French and American Perfumes and Soaps.
 N.B.—The above sale offers an unique opportunity to hospitals and private dispensaries, as the goods are in fine condition and are only being sold owing to the labels being slightly stained by water.
 On View from MONDAY, the 7th May, 1917.
 Catalogue will be issued.
 Terms.—Cash on delivery.
GEO. P. LAMBERT, Auctioneer. [598]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned has received instructions from the Liquidators of Messrs. JERGEN & Co. in pursuance of an order of the Hongkong Government to sell by public auction at 12 o'clock (Noon) on TUESDAY, the 31st day of July, 1917, at his Sales Rooms, Duddell Street, THE VALUABLE LEASEHOLD PROPERTY situated at The Peak, Hongkong, and being RURAL BUILDING LOT No. 10.

In One Lot.
 The Property Consists of:—
 The piece or parcel of ground and premises known as "Lynch's," 104, The Peak, situated near Mount Gough, in the Colony of Hongkong, with an area of 124,032 square feet and registered in the Land Office as Rural Building Lot No. 10.

The Lot is held for the unexpired residue of a term of 75 years created therein by an indenture of Crown Lease dated the 23rd day of April, 1896.

The Annual Crown Rent is \$35.00.
 For further particulars and conditions of sale apply to:
Messrs. WILKINSON & GRIST, Solicitors for the Liquidators, or to the Undersigned.
GEO. P. LAMBERT, Auctioneer. [597]

NOTICE.

ANY EUROPEAN, Non-Asiatic or Indian desiring to leave the Colony should apply in person at the CENTRAL POLICE STATION between the hours of 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. and 2 P.M. to 4 P.M. daily.

Applicants will be required to produce Passports or identification papers.
 All persons with certain exceptions who remain in the Colony for more than 7 days are required to Register themselves under the REGISTRATION OF PERSONS ORDINANCE 1916.

Forms of Registration giving the particulars required may be obtained at the G.P.O. and at all Police Stations.
 The Penalty for non-compliance is a fine not exceeding \$50.

FOR SALE.

ONE 104 B.H.P. HORNSBY ACKROYD OIL ENGINE complete with and coupled direct to one 8 K.W. Continuous current Shunt Wound Dynamo of 50/70 volts with about regulator.

Also ONE SWITCHBOARD for ACCUMULATORS, DYNAMO, &c., complete with instruments for 100 Amps.
 For further particulars apply to:
LINSTEAD & DAVIS, Alexandra Buildings. [61]

PUBLIC COMPANIES

CANTON INSURANCE OFFICE, LTD.
NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.
THE THIRTY-SIXTH ORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Office of the Undersigned, TO-DAY (THURSDAY), the 3rd May, 1917, at Noon.
 The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 19th instant to the 3rd May, both days inclusive.
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., General Agents.
 Hongkong, 16th April, 1917. [523]

THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC CO. LIMITED.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the TWENTY-EIGHTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING will be held at the Company's Office, 5th George's Buildings, on SATURDAY, the 5th May, 1917, at 12 o'clock Noon, for the purpose of presenting the Report of the Directors together with a Statement of Accounts to 28th February, 1917, and electing Directors and Auditors.
 The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 21st April to the 5th May, both days inclusive.
 By Order of the Board of Directors.
GIBB, LIVINGSTON & Co., Agents.
 Hongkong, 17th April, 1917. [532]

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.
THE THIRTY-SIXTH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held at the Office of the General Managers, Messrs. JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., Des Voeux Road, Hongkong, on WEDNESDAY, the 9th May, at Noon, for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors, passing the Accounts, and electing Directors and Auditors.
 The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from 2nd May to the 23rd May, both days inclusive.
 By Order of the Board of Directors.
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., General Managers.
 Hongkong, 25th April, 1917. [572]

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Certificate No. 5/NS 1956 dated Hongkong 21st February, 1917, for Three Shares numbered 9769, 14321, and 89966 registered in the name of Mrs. MARIA DAS NEVES RIBEIRO has been LOST or STOLEN, and should this Certificate not be produced to the Bank before the 11th day of May, 1917, a New Certificate for the shares will be issued, and the aforesaid Certificate No. 5/NS 1956 will thereafter be treated by this Corporation, as Null and Void.
 By Order of the Court of Directors.
N. STANB., Chief Manager.
 Hongkong, 11th April, 1917. [590]

WANTED.
SMALL GOODS LIFT, about 4' x 4', preferably electrically driven.
 Apply—
A. S. WATSON & Co., Ltd. [580]

FOR SALE.
FINE SELECTION OF CEYLON POSTAGE STAMPS.
GRACA & CO., No. 4 WINDHAM STREET, Hongkong. [464]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.
S.S. "CARNARVONSHIRE"
FROM UNITED KINGDOM AND INTERMEDIATE PORTS.
OWING to an outbreak of Fire on Board this Vessel at Genoa, a large contribution of 3 per cent. will be collected.
 The General Average Bond will require to be signed and deposits made before counter-signature of Bills of Lading can be given.
 For further particulars apply to:
JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD., Agents for
THE ROYAL MAIL STEAM PACKET CO., Owners of the "SHIPS" LINEAR STEAMERS. [577]

THE WATERHOUSE STEAMSHIP LINE.
NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.
FROM SEATTLE AND JAPAN PORTS.
THE Steamship
"LOUISE NIELSEN"
 having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo by her are hereby informed that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd., whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.
 Goods not cleared by the 3rd May, at 5 P.M. will be subject to rent.
 All broken, chafed and damaged packages are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on 3rd May, at 10 A.M. Claims against the steamer must be presented within 10 days of arrival, otherwise they will not be recognized.
 No Fire Insurance will be effected by us in any case whatever.
 Bills of Lading will be countersigned by:
JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd., Agents.
 Hongkong, 26th April, 1917. [578]

HOUSES TO LET

TO LET.
ONE ROOM suitable for an OFFICE.
 Apply to—
DENNYS & BOWLEY, [533]

TO LET.
NO. 10, SEYMOUR TERRACE From 1st June, 1917.
 Apply to—
P. M. N. DA SILVA, 6, Des Voeux Road. [531]

TO LET.
NO. 2, STEWART TERRACE, PEAK. Furnished.
 Apply to—
H. E. POLLOCK, Prince's Buildings. [57]

TO LET.
OFFICES to Let.
 Apply—
 Box No. 14, Care of "Daily Press" Office. [515]

TO LET.
NEW HOUSE in Conduit Road. Ready for occupation. Also 1 GODOWN in Duddell Street.
 For rent and other particulars apply to—
H. M. E. NEMAZEE, 1 Des Voeux Road. [462]

TO LET.
IMMEDIATE entry, Two very desirable SHOPS situated in Ice House Street, opposite the Grand Hotel, recently reconstructed.
 For rent and other particulars apply to—
THE MANAGER, Hongkong Ice Co., Ltd., 45, Connaught Road Central. [401]

TO LET.
FOUR-ROOMED HOUSES in Gordon Terrace and Salisbury Avenue, Kowloon.
A FLAT in Humphreys Buildings, Kowloon.
TO LET OR FOR SALE.
KOWLOON MARINE LOT 48 with wharf area 38,000 sq. ft., suitable for Coal Storage or erection of Godowns.
 Apply to—
HUMPHREYS ESTATE & FINANCE CO., Ltd., Alexandra Buildings. [281]

TO LET.
OFFICES at 2, Connaught Road Central.
HOUSES in King's and York Buildings.
HOUSES in Clifton Gardens, Connaught Road.
HOUSES in Broadwood and Moreton Terraces.
HOUSES on Shamoon, Canton.
THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT AND AGENCY CO., LTD. [53]

THE PENINSULAR AND ORIENTAL STEAM NAVIGATION CO.
STEAM FOR STRAITS, CEYLON AUSTRALIA, BOMBAY, EGYPT, MEDITERRANEAN PORTS AND LONDON.
THROUGH BILLS OF LADING ISSUED FOR BATAVIA, AMERICAN, CONTINENTAL, AND SOUTH AFRICA PORTS.

THE Homeward Mail Steamer, carrying His Majesty's Mails, will be despatched from this port as usual, taking Passengers and Cargo for the above Ports. Passengers accommodation in the connecting vessel secured before departure from Hongkong.
 Silk and Valuable and Tea and Cargo for Italy, France and London (under arrangement) will be conveyed by this Steamer proceeding via Bombay to Marseilles and London.
 Passengers will be received at the Office until 8 P.M. the day before sailing. The contents and value of all packages are required.
 For further particulars, sailing dates, etc., apply to:
E. V. D. PARE, Superintendent. [11]

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

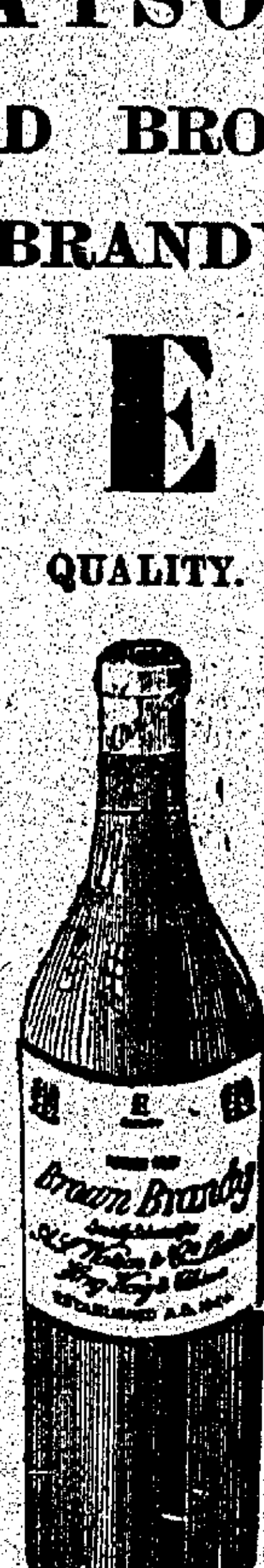
TO-DAY.
 Noon—Canton Insurance Office, Ltd. Meeting of Shareholders.
 5.30 p.m.—Constitutional Reform Association of Hongkong Meeting at the Theatre Royal.

TO-NIGHT.
 9 p.m.—Concert by Paul Dufault at the Theatre Royal.
TO-MORROW.
 9.15 p.m.—Chung Ling Soo Performance at the Theatre Royal.

Saturday, 5th May.—
 Noon—Hongkong Electric Co., Ltd. Ordinary General Meeting.
 5 p.m.—Matinee Performance of Chung Ling Soo at the Theatre Royal.
Wednesday, 8th May.—
 11 a.m.—Auction of Tablets, Malt and Oil, &c., at Sales Rooms by Mr. Geo. P. Lamert.
 Noon—Indo-China Steam Navigation Co., Ltd. Ordinary General Meeting.
Tuesday, 31st July.—
 Noon—Auction of Valuable Leasehold Property from the Liquidators of Messrs. Johnson & Co. by Mr. Geo. P. Lamert.

INTIMATION

WATSON'S
OLD BROWN
BRANDY
E
QUALITY.



25 YEARS IN WOOD.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.
WINE AND SPIRIT MERCHANTS.
 Telephone 616. [12]

BIRTH.
BLACK.—At Hongkong, on May 2nd, the wife of Mr. F. W. BLACK, of a son.
 [644]
HONGKONG OFFICE: 10a, Des Voeux Road; C. LONDON OFFICE: 121, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.
 HONGKONG 2ND MAY, 1917.

CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM.
THE recent clash between the Government and the European community in Hongkong over the question of the exclusion of the Germans for a prescribed period after the war has had at least one good result, for it has served to draw attention prominently once again to the need of reforming the Constitution of the Colony so that the public may have a greater voice in the management of their own affairs. This is a need which has been repeatedly urged almost from the very foundation of the Colony, seventy-three years ago, but concessions have been made very grudgingly by the Home Authorities, and it is now a quarter of a century since the last instalment of justice was received from the late Mr. CHAMBERLAIN in his capacity as Secretary of State for the Colonies. A further instalment has been long overdue. By his summary rejection of the petition addressed to him last year, Mr. BONAR LAW established a precedent which, if allowed to stand, is likely to be quoted by his successors for another quarter of a century. We are glad, therefore, to see that the Constitutional Reform Association, which has remained in a state of suspended animation since its birth six months ago, has been galvanised into activity by recent events, and we hope that the meeting to be held at the Theatre Royal this evening will be largely attended so that the promoters may be encouraged by the assurance that they have the public behind them. The objects of the Association are to secure a more popular form of government, to press the claims of Hongkong to representation upon any Imperial

THE HONGKONG STOCK EXCHANGE.
THE Hon. Treasurer of the Association that may be formed, and to keep a vigilant eye upon all matters of local interest. The most important of these is obviously the first, though even in many incorporated boroughs in England a Ratepayers' Association plays a very useful part. It is not to be expected, of course, that the project will receive unanimous support, and for that reason it behoves all those who are in favour of it to demonstrate the fact by their attendance to-morrow evening. By this time we are all familiar with the nature of the objections that will be offered to the step which is contemplated. The number of those who are opposed on principle to any closer approach to representative government is negligible, but there are others who, while admitting that the established order of things leaves much to be desired, fear that any departure from it must inevitably lead to disastrous consequences. They cannot conceive of reform without revolution. It is useless to point to the example of Shanghai, or to the advantages which the Chinese in this Colony enjoy in the matter of representation as compared with their fellow-countrymen in China; these timorous souls refuse to be comforted and must be left a prey to their own fears. At the same time it may be politic to modify the demands which were set forth in the recent petition, if only to strengthen the appeal for a thorough reconsideration of the question and to narrow the ground of attack. It might, for example, be advisable to leave the Executive Council out of consideration for the present, and to ask merely for the Legislative Council to be composed equally of official and unofficial members, the whole of the latter, with the exception of the Chinese, to be elected. This would probably achieve the object in view without introducing any new principle to agitate the mind of the Colonial Office. It would, at least, remove "the painful irony" which now attaches to Clause 18 of the Royal Instructions enacting that "All questions proposed for debate in the Legislative Council shall be decided by the majority of votes, and the GOVERNOR or the member presiding shall have an original vote in common with the other members of the Council, as also a casting vote, if upon any question the votes shall be equal." This balancing of the two parties would ensure a greater degree of respect being paid to the views of the general community, for the Government would hesitate to force through a measure opposed by the whole of the elected members. We would suggest, also, that the unofficial members should abandon the practice of passing Ordinances in skeleton form, and leaving it to the Governor-in-Council to frame rules and regulations under such Ordinances. If they were to exercise a little more care in this direction it might be found unnecessary to ask for the inclusion of two more members upon the Executive Council and the introduction of the elective system. The fact that the members of the Executive Council are pledged to secrecy would make it impossible for them to render an account of their stewardship, and, unless they were in a majority, they could not produce any tangible result. Something would be gained if the principle laid down by Mr. CHAMBERLAIN when he granted two seats on the Executive to the public were re-affirmed, and the occupants of those seats were chosen invariably—and not merely "as a rule"—from among the unofficial members of the Legislative Council. We offer these suggestions because we regard the need for reform as urgent and think that by following the line of least resistance progress may be accelerated.

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Cargo carried on through Bills of Lading from HONGKONG to BEIRA, ELAGOA BAY, DURBAN (Natal), EAST LONDON, PORT ELIZABETH and CAPE TOWN with transshipment at COLOMBO to Steamers of the INDIAN AFRICAN LINE.

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TIENTSIN	"KUEICHOW"	On 6th May, D'light
SHANGHAI	"YINGCHOW"	On 6th May, D'light
HA PHONG	"KAIKONG"	On 6th May, 9 A.M.
SWATOW and BANGKOK	"KANCHOW"	On 6th May, 10 A.M.
SHANGHAI	"CHENAN"	On 8th May, 4 P.M.

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"HAITAN" ... Capt. A. E. Hodgins ... FRIDAY, 11th May, at Noon.

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Any damaged packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the Consignees, and the Company's Surveyors, Messrs. GODDARD & DOUGLAS, at 10 A.M. on MONDAYS and THURSDAYS. All Claims must be presented within ten days of the Steamer's arrival here, after which date they cannot be recognized. No Claims will be admitted after the goods have left the Godown.
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SHANGHAI, MOJI and KOBE TENSIN MARU (WED'DAY, 16th May).
Capt. Taniguchi 8,000.

NAGASAKI, KOBE and TANGO MARU (FRIDAY, 18th May, at 11 A.M.).
YOKOHAMA. Capt. Boyda 13,500.

SHANGHAI and KOBE KAMO MARU (THURSDAY, 17th May, at 11 A.M.).
Capt. Iwano 16,000.

SHANGHAI, KOBE and KASHIMA MARU (MONDAY, 21st May, at 11 A.M.).
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SHINYO MARU	22,000 — 21 knots	TUES., 19th June
PERSIA MARU	9,000 — 14 knots	TUES., 3rd July
KOREA MARU	18,000 — 16 knots	SATUR., 14th July

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Passengers may travel by Railway between Ports of Call in Japan free of charge.

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"PANAMA MARU" ... FRIDAY, 11th May, at 3 P.M.
"MANILA MARU" ... WED'DAY, 23rd May, at 3 P.M.

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FOR SAILING DATES AND FURTHER PARTICULARS REGARDING PASSENGER OR FREIGHT APPLY AT OFFICE.

FORMOSAN LINE—For Tamsui, Keelung and Auping, Takao, via Swatow and Amoy.

"SOBU MARU" ... THURSDAY, 10th May, at 8 A.M.
"KAIJO MARU" ... SUNDAY, 13th May, at Noon.
"JOSEPH MARU" ... MONDAY, 14th May, at 8 A.M.

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